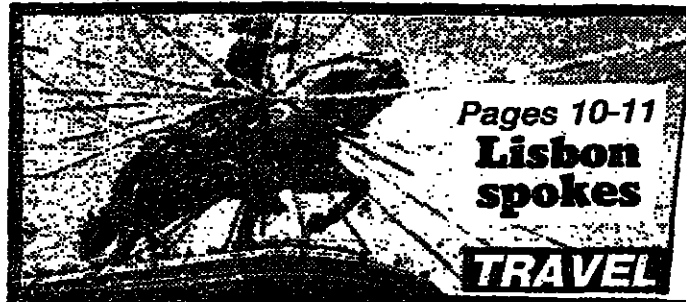


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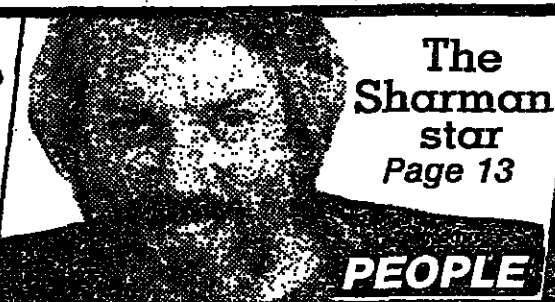
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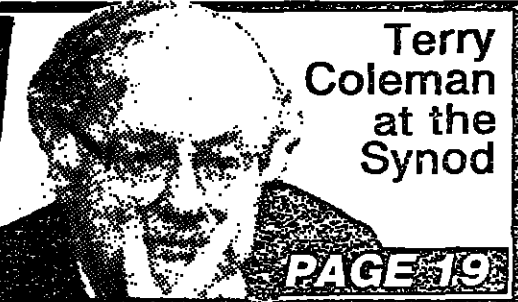
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Government embarrassed as many Tories back Powell

Embryo bill wins swingeing majority

By Alan Travis

The Government was faced with a new political problem yesterday. Thirty-five ministers and whips were among the Conservatives who backed Mr Enoch Powell's bill banning all experiments on human embryos.

Parliament, page 4

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Hopes fade on TUC pits initiative

By John Ardill, Labour Correspondent

Hopes of a negotiated settlement to the pits dispute faded last night as the National Coal Board claimed that the miners' union had rejected the formula for talks drawn up by the TUC general secretary, Mr Norman Willis, and the board chairman, Mr Ian MacGregor.

But at the same time the miners' president, Mr Arthur Scargill, said the union was ready to negotiate without preconditions. The executive, which spent all day yesterday at the TUC, was prepared to stand by for "hours or days" to enter negotiations, he said.

A brief statement read out by the union's chief executive officer, Mr Roger Windsor, said only that the union's executive had "noted" Mr Willis's report on his talks with the board. The initial reaction to this

from the board was not optimistic.

There were also indications that the deputies union Nacods, was unhappy with the Willis-MacGregor document, feeling that it did not conform to its own agreement with the board last October. This set up an improved review procedure for pits which the board wants to close.

It was stressed by TUC sources that the document did not have the full backing of Mr Willis, who had not recommended it in his meetings yesterday with leaders of the two unions. It represented the final position the board was prepared to adopt.

The document, which was intended to provide an agenda for negotiations, is understood to drop the board's demand for a written undertaking by the NUM on accepting pit closures on economic grounds. It asserts on

the one hand, the board's right to manage, including taking decisions to close pits, after the review procedure had been exhausted; and on the other, the NUM's right to defend its members' interests.

It is clear that the document contains some of the points put forward by Mr Willis on the basis of his earlier talks with the union leaders. But it is Mr MacGregor's rather than Mr Willis's outline for a negotiated settlement.

Mr Willis spent some four hours in four separate meetings yesterday morning, expounding and answering questions on the document, first with the chief officers of the NUM and Nacods and then with the unions' full executives.

The two executives then met separately to consider responses. Just after 5 pm, Mr Windsor emerged to read the statement. This said: "The union's executive, having taken note of the report by the TUC general secretary, following his discussions with the board, believe that the union's response should now provide the basis for an immediate resumption of negotiations, without preconditions, and hopefully a resolution of this long and damaging dispute."

Mr Windsor declined to answer questions on the statement and the two executives remained upstairs on the fifth floor of the TUC.

Three hours later the NCB was still not admitting that it had received the NUM's response, although it is understood that a letter was delivered by car. A board spokesman promised a state-

ment when the letter was received.

Meanwhile, the continued presence of the two union executives at the TUC raised the prospect of an exchange of messages before any decision was made to proceed to talks or to abandon what was being described as the last chance for a negotiated settlement.

David McKie writes: The Prime Minister has been kept in close touch with the progress of the negotiations. Ministers were hopeful yesterday about the outcome but reluctant to expect success until they could actually see it.

But so long as the formula fully recognises management's right to manage, which can be taken to include the right to insist on closure of uneconomic pits - neither Mrs Thatcher nor any of her colleagues will want to stand in its way.

Next week

Monday

STAR WARS
"Not even Jonathan Swift," writes E. P. Thompson on the Agenda page, "could have imagined so savage a satire on human endeavour."

CHANGING IMAGE
Who was the Fifties woman who put promiscuous intercourse on a pedestal? asks Ann Shearer in a continuing Guardian Women series on how women have shaped the post-war decades.

PLUS POSY



Tuesday

STINK BOMB
The government may be keen to improve university science but unless it does something about schools, argues Education Guardian, its plans are doomed.

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Anatoly Karpov, right, sits next to the World Chess Federation president, Florencio Campomanes, as he announced the abandonment of the world chess championship match. Challenger Gary Kasparov stands alone and disconsolate

Chess chief abandons title match

From Martin Walker in Moscow

THE LONGEST-running world championship match in the history of chess was cancelled last night, even though both players insisted that they wanted to continue.

The decision to call a halt after 48 games and five months was taken by the head of the World Chess Federation, Florencio Campomanes. He had flown into Moscow from Dubai after being told that the world champion, Anatoly Karpov, was on the verge of a nervous breakdown and too distraught to continue.

A thin man, Karpov has lost 20 pounds during the match and over the last month the quality of his game has fallen apart.

What had looked like being the most boring of series had suddenly reached a position known to chess

players as zugzwang - Campomanes to move, but any move he made would make matters worse. So he called a press conference.

The 21-year-old challenger, Gary Kasparov, who had clawed three games back from being 5-0 down, looked stunned as Campomanes said

the game was to be cancelled. It was the first Kasparov had heard of it.

Then came a sensation. Karpov burst into the hall, saying that the match could and should continue. Karpov added that before the press conference he had told Campomanes and Kasparov that he wanted to carry on. "Rumours of my death have been somewhat exaggerated," he said.

Mr Campomanes said that his decision stood. The series

was cancelled and would start again from scratch on September 1.

Kasparov then stomped out of the hall, saying it was a fix. With an eye on the western press he said in English: "Why are they staging this show? It is an artificial spectacle."

Then a Soviet Foreign Ministry official intervened to say that the press conference was over.

But, speaking later to western reporters, Kasparov said: "It was an official decision. I had to obey." He was appalled, he said, because he had fought back to reach a chance of drawing level in the series, or even winning.

Mr Campomanes, who was repeatedly interrupted by boos and heckling from the audience, had denied that his personal friendship with Karpov had influenced him. The match was exhausting

everyone involved and he was stopping it because at 48 games it had reached exactly twice the length of a normal match.

Sources in the Kasparov camp said that Karpov had initially asked to be declared the winner, even though he was one victory short of the six required.

The new series in September will be of limited duration, which will reduce the exhaustion factor for Karpov. Mr Campomanes said the winner would be declared world champion for 1985-6.

World championship chess has always been as much about physical stamina and brawn as about brain. Kasparov is a fit young man and a keen soccer player. Karpov has always been the golden boy of the Soviet state, a good citizen and party member, happy to perform the civic and ceremonial duties which go with his eminence.



Enoch Powell
moral issue

Walesa may face charges of inciting unrest

By Michael Simmons

The Solidarity leader, Mr Lech Walesa, has been ordered to appear today at the public prosecutor's office in his home town of Gdansk. Friends said last night that he could face charges of inciting public unrest.

The summons, delivered yesterday, coincides with a decision by authorities to charge three of Mr Walesa's closest supporters with planning a 15-minute national protest strike at the end of the month. The three were arrested with four others at a Solidarity meeting being held near Mr Walesa's home on Wednesday.

According to police, the

meeting was to prepare action to create public unrest. Solidarity representatives from Wroclaw, Cracow and Warsaw, as well as the northern part of Gdansk, were among those held for questioning.

There was no immediate indication last night of whether Mr Walesa will answer the summons, but since he has openly acknowledged that the meeting was held to discuss national strike action to food price rises - it is probable that he will.

Mr Walesa last night declined to comment on his summons. But in a joint statement with another leading dissident,

Mr Jacek Kuron, he described the charges as a violation of human rights. "The act of amnesty may turn out to be only a momentary move designed to mislead the public opinion of Poland and to continue," he said, in a reference to last July's general amnesty.

The three activists have been thrown in the flesh of the authorities for several years. They are Mr Adam Michnik, one of the disbanded KOR group of intellectuals, Mr Wladyslaw Frasinski, who has pressed for further government inquiries into the death of Father Jerzy Popieluszko, and Mr Bogdan Lis, who was unexpectedly released from prison

last December after being told that he could face treason charges.

The Polish news agency, PAP, said later the four other men had also been charged with the same offences as Mr Michnik and his colleagues, but they were not described as being under arrest.

If maximum sentences are given, and particularly if Mr Walesa is brought to court, the authorities will obviously face international censure. But having survived the outcry which followed the murder of Father Popieluszko and the carefully managed trial, it could well be that General Jaruzelski will take the risk.

New inquiry Council in on Ponting

By a Staff Reporter

The Ministry of Defence has reopened its inquiries into the Ponting case, it was revealed last night. The new investigation is believed to involve a communication to the Labour MP, Mr Tam Dalyell, nearly three months before the other documents were leaked.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Defence would only say last night: "The MoD police, acting under the authority of the Chief Constable, Mr John Bailey, are pursuing certain inquiries following the trial and acquittal of Mr Ponting."

The note, which was sent to Mr Dalyell on April 24 last year, three weeks before the other documents were leaked, was anonymous and suggested questions which would be asked in Parliament. It said: "You are on the right track, keep going."

Mr Ponting refused to comment last night the ministry's revelation came as Mrs Thatcher sent her fifth letter to the opposition leader, Mr Kinnoch. In it she declined to make a point-by-point response to the list of 16 questions to which Mr Kinnoch had requested a further reply.

The letter said: "If you want these matters to be pursued, there is a fully opportunity for debate on Monday." Resolute 'favoured' prosecution, back page

Council in NUT pact

By Andrew Moneur

Labour-controlled Sheffield is breaking ranks with other education authorities and dropping its threat to dock teachers' pay during the schools dispute in return for a no-strike agreement.

The National Union of Teachers in Sheffield confirmed last night that a deal had been reached, although the city's 3,000 NUT members will continue with their disruptive action, including a ban on covering for absent staff.

The agreement is that the authority will not deduct pay from staff who refuse to cover - as it warned that it would only last week. In return it will be safeguarded from selective three-day strikes now being planned by the NUT and due to start on February 26.

The deal represents a blow for the employers, who have aimed to present a united front against the teachers' unions.

Yesterday the list of education authorities which have issued warning letters to teachers, threatening to dock their pay, topped 50.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Gaol Aids suspects

TWO prisoners from different gaols are being treated as Aids suspects. One is in a Southampton hospital and there is a second suspected case in the north. It was announced last night. Prison fears, page 2

Acorn writ

THE ACORN home computer company faces a writ from an unpaid creditor as speculation about its future mounts in the City. Page 26

DEFUSED
THE CHURCH of England has no clear policy on cruise and Trident missiles after a debate suspended by the general synod yesterday. Back page

Base falls

VIETNAMESE forces completed their takeover of the Khmer Rouge stronghold of Phnom Malai yesterday and seized control of a string of camps along the border with Thailand. Page 5

'Splits' claim
OPPONENTS of the Government's plan to abolish the GLC and the metropolitan councils say there are signs of ministers being split over the issue. Page 2

Crash 'blackout'

A TRAIN driver involved in a crash at Wembley last October in which three people died and 18 were injured told an inquiry yesterday he had a blackout before passing a signal. Page 4

THE WEATHER
COLD with sunny periods. Details, back page

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BANK OF SCOTLAND
A FRIEND FOR LIFE

Committee is told of small savings on fire services

Ministers 'split on plans to abolish councils'

By John Carvel,
Local Government
Correspondent

Opponents of the Government's plans to abolish the Greater London Council and metropolitan counties were jubilant yesterday at what they claimed were the first signs of public cracks in ministers' unity on the issue.

Mr Giles Shaw, junior Home Office minister, told MPs during the abolition bill committee on Thursday that he doubted whether scrapping the councils would create savings on fire brigade manpower, equipment and services. Administrative savings were possible but they were likely to be small.

This followed publication of an academic researcher's interview with the former Home Secretary, Lord Whitelaw, who predicted that there would be a difficult problem getting the police authorities right after the metropolitan counties are over. Lord Whitelaw had given his permission for the text to be released.

Mr Jack Straw, shadow environment spokesman, said yesterday that these interventions had made public the deep tension within Whitehall which had been known to exist for several months.

The Government claims that abolition will save £100 million. It had not been necessary for Mr Shaw to make it clear that the Home Office did not expect the fire service to contribute to this, said Mr Straw. "I have rarely witnessed one minister demolishing another so comprehensively in public."

When Mr Shaw finished his speech to the committee observers noted an exchange with the local government minister, Mr Kenneth Baker, whose expression indicated that the Environment Department thought the Home Office had let the side down.

Mr Shaw told the committee that the Government did not intend to reduce the number

of policemen in metropolitan counties. "It is hoped, no more than that, that there will be a significant administrative saving in some authorities where the changes will allow district councils to supply more of the services than at present," he said. Such savings were unlikely in Tyne and Wear, and Northumberland.

Abolition would not alter fire brigade strengths and effectiveness, said Mr Shaw. He was asked how much of the £100 million savings could be attributed to the service.

"I doubt whether any would come from the fire service in relation to the money spent on manpower, equipment and services. There may be changes in some of the administrative support costs which will be transferred from the metropolitan county councils to the joint boards," he said.

Mr Patrick Groun, Tory MP for Feltham and Heston, asked what the administrative savings might be. Mr Shaw said: "The cost of fire services in the seven abolition authorities is £264 million. Some back-up services are provided largely by civilian staff. I anticipate savings in administration but savings will be small."

Mr Straw said yesterday that fire and police accounted for 40 per cent of metropolitan county spending.

Meanwhile, an acid exchange of correspondence between Mr Baker and the deputy leader of the GLC Tory group, Mr Cyril Taylor, has been circulated to London MPs.

Mr Taylor had disputed the Government's claim that abolition would make administration more locally accountable by transferring 75 per cent of

the GLC's £100 million to the borough level. He said that abolition would force up rates in many London boroughs.

Mr Baker replied that Mr Taylor's argument was "seriously flawed" and suggested that he had made the mistake of believing GLC information.

Call to lift order freezing funds of NUM

By Patrick Wintour,
Labour Staff

Mr Michael Arnold, the receiver to the funds of the NUM, yesterday sought a discharge or temporary lifting of the sequestration order freezing the union's funds. But the move was challenged in court by the four commissioners of sequestration who said that there should be no change in the sequestration order until the union has purged its contempt.

Mr Justice Nicholls said that he would give his ruling on Monday.

Mr Peter Crosswell QC, representing the receiver, said that Mr Arnold felt that, in his role as trustee of the union's funds, he had a responsibility to preserve the union's funds and prevent "unnecessary duplication of costs." These had arisen because the receiver and the sequestrators were both attempting to recover the union's funds from abroad.

Mr Crosswell said considerable costs could be saved if the sequestration was discharged. The receiver had a "duty to look to the interests of the many miners that were entirely innocent of any contempt."

The contempt is the result of actions by a tiny number of individuals who lead this union and who are determined to defy the courts. Those individuals should be brought to account and the trust funds should not be allowed to suffer further," Mr Crosswell said.

He said the costs of the sequestrators had exceeded £300,000, while those of the receiver were over £190,000. Sums to cover these costs, along with the £200,000 contempt fine had been deducted from the £4.9 million brought back to England by the receiver from a union account in Luxembourg.

The sequestrators, four partners in the firm of accountants, Price Waterhouse, were appointed in October by Mr Justice Nicholls at the request of two Yorkshire miners after the union had refused to pay a £200,000 contempt fine imposed on the union for continuing to describe the strike as official.

The receiver, an accountant with the firm, Arthur Young McClelland, Mr Arnold, was appointed in late November by Mr Justice Mervyn Davies at the request of 16 working miners on the grounds that the trustees were not "fit and proper persons."

Mr Crosswell said: "It is of great public importance that the sequestrators be seen to be effective," but that he had achieved, he said, since the fine and the costs had been paid from the money recovered abroad. He pointed out that the union's leaders had little inducement to purge their contempt in the manner sought by the sequestrators since to do so would not give them access to the union's funds. The funds would remain with the receiver until the trial of the full action which had led to the appointment of the receiver. A speedy trial was not likely, Mr Crosswell said.

Mr Crosswell also indicated that the continuance of the sequestration hampered the receiver's efforts in foreign courts to repatriate the union's funds. Judgment is awaited in an action brought by the receiver in order to recover £2.7 million held by the union in a Dublin account.

Mr Crosswell said the receiver might be seen abroad as a conduit of funds for the sequestrators. He added that in one unnamed country litigation to recover the union's funds would not be necessary but for the continuance of the sequestration. Courts are reluctant to impinge the penal decisions of a foreign country, and the sequestrator, unlike the receiver, is regarded as the instrument of a penal judgment.

The difficulties faced by Mr Arnold due to the sequestration were underlined when Mr Crosswell revealed that English insurers had given an indemnity to cover a sum of £4,107,887.14 — part of a sum brought from Luxembourg — by Mr Arnold and placed in an interest-bearing account.

Mr Howard Page, representing the sequestrators, said the sequestration should not be altered until the union came before the court and purged its contempt. It was not correct to say that contempt was the product of a few individuals.



LOVELACE Akwei, aged 16, seeks court from her mother after learning that she is to be deported by the Home Office, writes Aileen Ballantine

The Ghanaian girl came to Britain in October because her grandmother was no longer able to look after her.

Her mother, Mrs Edith Akwei, a Commonwealth citizen who has been settled in Britain for 14 years, was under the impression that entry clearance from abroad was not necessary.

According to Mrs Akwei's solicitor,

Miss Jane Hinde, when Mrs Akwei visited her daughter in Ghana in October, she found that the girl had been begging for food and was in extremely poor health, largely because the grandmother, aged 84, had become too ill to care for her. For the sake of her "moral and physical welfare" Mrs Akwei brought her daughter back with her. Mrs Akwei is employed as a cook/supervisor with the London borough of Southwark, where Lovelace goes to school.

The Home Office has refused to

allow Lovelace to settle permanently in Britain with her mother on compassionate grounds, and said that she must go back to Ghana and obtain proper entry clearance there.

Mrs Akwei's MP, Mr Harold Harman, the Labour Member for Peckham, has asked the Home Office to delay the deportation, which was to take place on Monday, on the grounds that Lovelace is medically unfit to travel. The delay will last a few days while Mr David Waddington, Minister of State at the Home Office, replies

Overcrowding fuels fears of Aids spreading in prisons

By Andrew Velth,
Medical Correspondent

Aids will spread in Britain's "dreadful prisons" unless the Government tackles overcrowding and understaffing, the general secretary of the Prison Officers' Association, Mr David Evans, said yesterday.

His warning came after a prisoner suspected of suffering from the disease had been transferred from Camp Hill gaol on the Isle of Wight to Southampton General Hospital, where he was being nursed in isolation yesterday.

The man, in his mid-thirties, arrived from Wormwood Scrubs in London on Wednesday and the chairman of the Camp Hill POA branch accused the medical staff at Wormwood Scrubs of failing to examine him properly before sending him to the island.

The director of the Prison Medical Service, Dr John Kilgour, has begun visiting gaols where Aids has been diagnosed, and guidelines on the handling of cases are being drawn up as a matter of urgency, said a Home Office spokesman.

Movements between Camp Hill and the other Isle of Wight gaols, Albury and Parkhurst, have been suspended, and the sick prisoner's blood samples are being sent to London for tests.

The virus which causes Aids (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) is spread in blood, which makes it a particular risk among unhygienic prisoners.

"I hope Dr Kilgour will be able to manage the fears of some of our members," said Mr Evans.

But the spokesman should not be surprised if the prison service is unable to contain Aids because unless we have the proper facilities to identify and treat cases the problem will never be contained.

People at most risk of catching Aids — homosexuals and

intravenous drug addicts — were over-represented in prisons, he said. Yet in some gaols prisoners were not examined or properly searched when they arrived because of the lack of staff.

Thousands of smuggled syringes had been found in cells, he said, while Wormwood Scrubs did not have a hospital, let alone isolation facilities.

Prison staff were at risk from accidents and from attacks by violent prisoners. "We warned the Home Office a year ago

The deputy governor at Camp Hill, Mr David Godfrey, said the prisoner had not been in contact with other Camp Hill inmates.

Any connection between this case and that of the Reverend Gregory Richards, the Chelmsford prison chaplain who died from Aids and had previously worked at Camp Hill, was ruled out yesterday.

People at most risk of catching Aids — homosexuals and

Storms kill three as freeze goes on

By David Hearst

THREE people were killed yesterday in storms and high winds buffeting the south coast, Midlands, and the Scottish Highlands. There was no sign of a let-up in the storms or the freeze, the London Weather Centre said.

In the Midlands, an 18-year-old man died after the car in which he was travelling skidded on an icy road and hit a bus stop at Brerley Hill, At Kildersham, a 20-year-old man was killed when his car skidded into a tree.

Police said that high winds were blowing snow piled up since last weekend back onto the icy roads.

The body of a woman was found in a deep gully near Glencoe in the Scottish Highlands. She was Miss Susan Anderson, aged 24, a graduate from Aberdeen University, who had been missing since Wednesday night. She was the fifth hill walker to die in the Highlands this winter.

Heavy seas and winds gusting up to 70 miles an hour left four boats in trouble in the English Channel, smashed hundreds of small boats against their moorings in harbours, and tore down trees and power lines along the south coast.

A lifeboat from Falmouth and a naval helicopter from Culdroe were called to the aid of a 60ft French boat, the Saint Simon, which started taking in water in heavy seas south of the Lizard. The boat was saved from foundering by a pump which was lowered from the helicopter, and last night was making for Falmouth.

French rescue services were last night responding to a May Day call from a second French trawler, the Bellamy, which was 55 miles south of Plymouth. A lifeboat from Brixham was launched to help a 40ft pilot cutter, the Sea Harrier, into harbour after its compass failed, and the storm tore a 200-ton coaster loaded with china clay from its anchorage near Teignmouth.

In west Cornwall, blitzed uprooted trees and felled power lines cutting electricity supplies to more than 3,000 homes.

About 38,000 households in North Wales face water rationing because of the freeze.

Welsh Water Authority engineers yesterday used explosives in an attempt to free outlets at a frozen reservoir 1,500 feet up in the mountains behind Blaenau Ffestiniog, where 3,000 consumers are suffering intermittent supplies.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Veterans' Far East pilgrimage

FORMER prisoners of war, veterans, and widows of men who died in the Far East during the second world war were invited yesterday to join a government-sponsored pilgrimage in November. It is designed to show the commemoration of the end of the war in Europe on May 8 also mark the Far East. The Government has asked the Royal British Legion to organise the trip, after its organisation of the D-day pilgrimages last year. The trip is separate from the £150,000 government-aided pilgrimage scheme for war widows which begins this year.

Yugoslav gets political asylum

A YUGOSLAVIAN man who was ordered to leave Britain after overstaying his visa has been granted political asylum by the Home Office.

Marko Bunc, aged 32, a restaurant manager of Acton, London, faced almost certain imprisonment for his political activities if he and his family were forced back to Yugoslavia. His appeal against deportation was rejected by a tribunal in January but his MP, Sir George Young, made another appeal to the Home Secretary.

C5 workers accept 4pc

WORKERS who assemble the Sinclair C5 tri-cycle yesterday voted to accept a 4 per cent pay offer and end a two-month overtime ban which has hit production Sinclair Vehicles last month postponed its decision on opening a second assembly line because of the industrial unrest.

The vehicles are assembled by Hoover workers at Merthyr Tydfil, South Wales. In a secret ballot Hoover's 1,700 shop floor workers voted 210 million investment package which will modernise the factory but could lead up to 500 job losses.

Crash victims' return to Britain

THE bodies of the RAF handsmen killed in last Monday's autobahn crash in Germany will be flown back to Britain on Tuesday, the RAF said yesterday. An RAF Hercules aircraft will fly them to Lyneham, Wiltshire, after a short ceremony at RAF Widenath, in West Germany. Families whose relatives have been killed in the military cemetery at Wegberg, near RAF Germany's Rheinwiesenheadquarters, on Thursday, an RAF spokesman said.

Pro-abortionists 'in protest raid'

OFFICIALS of the London-based Society for the Protection of Unborn Children claimed that pro-abortionists rampaged through its offices in Westminster yesterday, smashing windows and damaging equipment.

They said a dozen men and women, with balaclavas and scarves hiding their faces, stormed into the offices in Tufnell Street. A Scotland Yard spokesman said that nine people had been arrested.

Minister to be sued over 'leak'

THE Welsh Secretary, Mr Nicholas Edwards, is to be sued after revealing details of a secret out-of-court settlement to the House of Commons.

Mr Edwards disclosed the details in the Commons library after pressure from MPs to reveal the terms of the deal which settled legal action against architects responsible for the design of the University Hospital of Wales in Cardiff. The action against the minister is being taken by two former partners in the architects' practice.

'Car bomb' jury to retire on Monday

THE jury in the trial of Mr Graham Backhouse, the Cotswold farmer accused of trying to murder his wife with a car bomb, will retire to consider its verdicts on Monday.

The judge, Mr Justice Goff, began his summing up at Bristol Crown Court, where Mr Backhouse has also denied murdering a neighbour, Mr Colyn Bedale-Taylor.

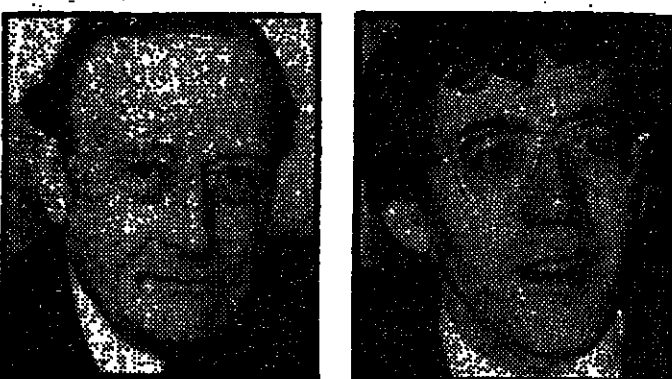
Old people's home owner fined

THE owner of an old people's home at Westgate, Kent, was yesterday fined for giving an 84-year-old woman resident drugs which had not been prescribed for her.

Mrs Sylvia Tillings, aged 39, formerly of Cabini Court, Lode, appeared at Maidstone Crown Court, where she was fined £125 and further £150 after being found guilty of furnishing false information in connection with an account relating to a former resident.

Irish wrangle

THE Irish authorities yesterday asked the Supreme Court in Dublin not to grant the Australian fugitive, Mr Robert Tiedje, immunity from extradition just because his original arrest was unlawful.



Giles Shaw — no manpower cuts. Jack Straw — "minister demolished."

Rape claim committee

By James Lewis

Members of the black community in Moss Side, Manchester, backed by women's organisations, have set up a defence committee to support a woman who claims she was raped by two officers at the local police station. Jacqueline Berkeley, aged 19, claims that the rape took place at a Manchester police station last April, when she and two other women were arrested for allegedly causing a disturbance.

Greater Manchester police investigated the complaint. Miss Berkeley is now to be charged with wasting police time. The charge will be heard by Manchester magistrates later this month.

The defence committee plans to pay for an independent forensic scientist and intends to picket the hearing. It is also demanding an independent inquiry into the matter.

Fire kills two

A woman and her son died in a fire which destroyed a house in County Durham yesterday. The bodies of Mrs Jeanette Barker, aged 27, and her son, Brian Tones, aged four, were found by firemen called to the house in the village of Grange Villa.

Gallagher ends fast

From Joe Joyce

Eddie Gallagher, the convicted kidnapper serving a 20-year prison sentence in the Republic of Ireland, ended a 38-day hunger strike amid concern for his health.

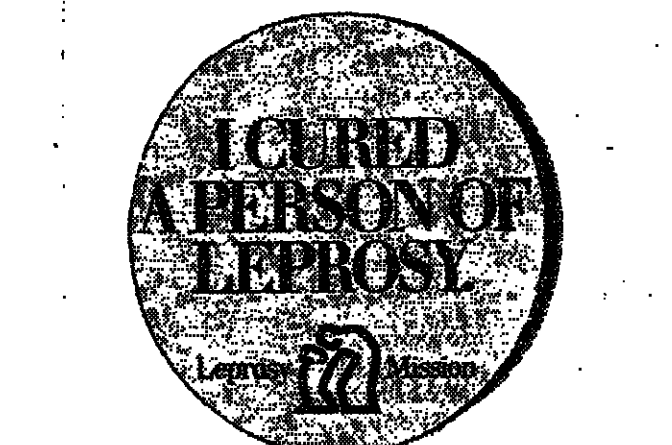
He had refused food in support of several demands, including the right to family visits out of hearing of prison officers, better remission of sentence, and parole. Prison officials said he had also asked to be moved from the top security gaol at Portlaoise.

Another prisoner, Pascal Holmes, who is serving seven years, ended a 29-day fast in support of the same demands.

Both men were visited by the Irish opposition leader, Mr Charles Haughey, before they ended their protest. He saw them in a military hospital at the request of their families.

A statement on their behalf said they had suspended the protest to allow negotiations with officials. The Irish Justice Ministry said it would not discuss demands while the protest lasted.

Mr Gallagher was gaoled in 1975 for kidnapping the Dutch industrialist, Dr Tiede Herrema. He complained that his sentence breached a deal with Irish police which ended a lengthy council house siege.



This badge costs £5 from The Leprosy Mission, Room 72, Freeport 17, London W1.

Often £5 is enough to cure a person of leprosy. Over 12 million of the world's sufferers can be cured by regular treatment over a few months. Won't you help?

Pickets defy High Court judge by turning up in force at mines

Fifty pickets turned up yesterday at three of the pits in South Yorkshire where a High Court judge ordered that there should be no more than six.

Extra officers were called to reinforce the two at each of the collieries, Riddington, Dimmington and Maltby. Police said that bricks were thrown and a park bench was hurled in front of coaches taking working miners in Riddington.

The National Union of Mineworkers had agreed to abide by the court order, which covers seven pits. A

police spokesman said: "Four out of seven pits isn't bad. We are playing it very low key."

The National Coal Board warned that a second face would be lost at Oakdale colliery, near Blackwood, Gwent, if the miners' lodge did not provide extra help to deal with flooding.

Safety cover was withdrawn when three men returned to work on Monday and yesterday it was confirmed that one of the colliery's three faces had been lost.

Miners agreed yesterday to

provide winding men to allow management to pump out most of the 2.5 million gallons of water collecting in the workings every 24 hours. But an NCB spokesman said that more help was needed.

A High Court judge adjourned until Monday an application for an injunction against leaders of the National Union of Seamen over a blockade in support of the miners' strike.

The crew of the Porthborough refused to load a ship from Blyth, Northumberland, which berthed at Jarrow Staithes.

hatches so that coal can be loaded for the Central Electricity Generating Board.

An NUS spokesman said the Stephenson Clarke Shipping wanted the union to withdraw "instructions or advice given to the crew not to sail or carry out their duties."

The number of ships at a standstill in North-east ports because of the union blockade grew to five yesterday when members of the Transport and General Workers' Union refused to load a ship from Finland, which berthed at Jarrow Staithes.

had nuts loosened on one wheel, which came off when the cars were driven. No one has been injured.

Newbury police said they had received no complaints but the women insisted that they had reported the attacks.

Newbury magistrates told two Greenham women yesterday that they had to stay in custody for six weeks because they refused to promise not to try to break into the base if they were bailed on a criminal damage charge.

Mr Nicholas Bland, the striking Nottinghamshire miner who challenged the Department of Health and Social Security's 21½ per cent deduction from benefits, reached the end of the appeals procedure yesterday.

Mr Bland and the Child Poverty Action Group, which supports him, were told that the Social Security Commission would give its judgment within about 10 days.

He claims deductions in lieu of assumed strike pay are wrong.

die in off rail

Ulster's undercover squads trained to kill

DURING the last quarter of 1983 the IRA and the more indiscriminate Irish National Liberation Army regrouped and retrained in County Armagh.

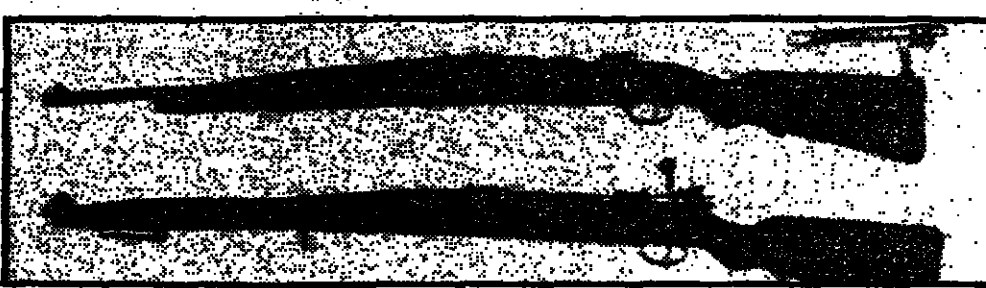
A series of shootings over seven weeks by the illegal Republican paramilitaries left dead five policemen, one former Royal Ulster Constabulary officer, and two members of the Ulster Defence Association.

The response from the security forces was swift and emphatic: three unarmed IRA men were shot dead when police fired 109 bullets into their car after it broke through a late night road block; two unarmed INLA men met with a similar fate, shot at close range by a policeman who later told a court that he believed his life was in danger.

Sandwiched between these two incidents was the killing by police of 17-year-old Michael Tighe and the wounding of his friend, Martin McCauley, at a lonely farmhouse in the same area near Lurgan.

Mr McCauley and Tighe were found with three ancient rifles, two of them without bolts and all without ammunition, in a hay shed which had been staked out by a special police surveillance team.

The three shootings, so close together in both time and place, prompted nationalist politicians and some churchmen to claim that the security forces were operating a "shoot to kill" policy. The allegation cannot be



OLD AND RUSTY: rifles that put police in fear of their lives

Unarmed Republicans have died in shootings by specially-formed Ulster police units. There have been claims that there is a "shoot to kill" policy, and the concept of minimum force has certainly been ditched. Paul Johnson assesses the policy change

SHOT DEAD: Michael Tighe



asked whether membership of the IRA or INLA now constituted a capital offence.

In April this year an RUC constable was cleared of murdering an unarmed INLA man, Seamus Greay. The judge accepted that the officer believed his life was in danger and, quoting another judge, added: "While policemen are required to act within the law, the law does not require them to be supermen."

The circumstances of the shootings have to be put in the context of Northern Ireland. In the same period two RUC officers who approached a car parked outside a County Down post office were shot dead by IRA men about to stage a robbery. Unionists were not so slow to claim that if anyone was shooting to kill, it was the Republican paramilitaries.

An inquiry is being conducted by the deputy chief constable of Greater Manchester, Mr John Stalker, into the circumstances surrounding the way senior officers concocted a cover story after the Greay killing and the shooting of Tighe.

The RUCs remain operational. It is believed that a similar unit was involved when one man, John Downes, died and 20 were injured as police made a vain attempt to arrest the NOFAD director Martin Galvin during a Republican demonstration in West Belfast last August. That incident is also under investigation.

In June last year Lord Justice Gibson, clearing three HQMSU officers of murdering an unarmed IRA man shot dead in a security operation, went so far as to ask that they should be commended.

He warned of the effects on soldiers or policemen ordered to arrest dangerous criminals if they had to risk their lives and also face the hazard of life imprisonment as a murderer.

That and other comments provoked an outcry among nationalists and prompted a complaint from the government of the Irish Republic. Some observers

substantiated — the government does not issue orders to the RUC on a day-to-day basis and operational matters are for the chief constable.

But the important concept of minimum force appeared to have been ditched at operational level in at least these three cases.

All three are linked by the involvement of groups from a special unit whose training, weaponry and approach is indicative of changes in police tactics.

There are at least 12 squads of 25 members. Applicants are picked for their ability to cope under stress and they are trained under simulated gunfire, shooting at different targets while subjected to thunderclashes and confusion.

They are taught to shoot at the trunk and have information about suspected terrorists that local police do not possess. Their response, in the words of one senior police officer, is based on

"speed, fire power and aggression."

Squads are equipped according to their tasks. Transport can be unmarked, bullet-proof Ford Cortinas. The weaponry is unconventional — pump-action shot guns, machine pistols, Ruger rifles and Sterling machine guns. Despite all these trappings, they have no more powers than ordinary RUC officers. They are bound by the same laws which allow them to fire to protect others, protect themselves, or to apprehend someone thought to be committing a serious crime who cannot be detained by other means.

Suspended gaol for police victim

A Northern Ireland man who was severely wounded by police in an incident in which his friend was shot dead, was found guilty at Belfast Crown Court yesterday of possessing arms in suspicious circumstances.

Martin McCauley, aged 22, of Lurgan, was given a two-year prison sentence, suspended for three years, after being cleared of having weapons with intent to endanger life.

Much of the evidence against him was provided by three Royal Ulster Constabulary officers, who were involved in the shooting. In his judgment yesterday Lord Justice Kelly said he was worried about its credibility and accuracy and had to exclude their evidence.

The three officers, identified in court only as Sergeant X and Constables Y and Z, described how they approached a farmhouse outside Lurgan and saw figures in a hay shed.

Weapons were pointed at them and they believed their lives were in danger. The officers fired a total of 44 shots, in several bursts, killing 17-year-old Michael Tighe and wounding Mr McCauley.

In the hay shed three old and rusted rifles were found. There was no ammunition and two of them were not fitted with bolts, although bolts were in the barrels.

The officers, from a special anti-terrorist unit, told the court that they lied in statements given to detectives investigating the inci-

dent after being told to use a cover story concocted by senior officers designed to conceal the involvement of the Special Branch and an informer.

Lord Justice Kelly said the officers had entered the arena of credibility under a cloud, having made those false statements. He doubted their version of events, particularly as to the positions they were in when the shots were fired, and whether McCauley and Tighe were holding and pointing rifles.

He said he found it difficult to accept that the young men would reappear, pointing the empty weapons, after having been challenged and shot at. The proper course was to exclude the officers' evidence and its implications from his consideration — although that did not mean he disbelieved it completely.

Mr McCauley had claimed that he and his companion had stumbled across the rifles by chance after visiting the farmhouse to check it for the absent owner. The judge said he did not believe that account and pointed out that although the rifles were old and rusted, such weapons could be used for training terrorists, and at illegal check points or propaganda shows.

Mr McCauley, who had no previous convictions and denied any association with any paramilitary organisation, had spent 10 months in custody after the shooting in November, 1982. He is still partly disabled.

Councils cannot impose housing rules, says judge

Local authorities cannot take their housing difficulties into account when meeting their obligations to put a roof over the heads of homeless families, a high court judge ruled yesterday.

Mr Justice Hodgson said in a judgment which will affect councils all over the country that housing departments could not set their own standards for appropriate accommodation when complying with the 1977 Housing (Homeless Persons) Act.

The proposition that tests of what was appropriate could vary between councils, depending on how severe housing shortages were, was startling. Councils would probably set standards as low as possible to reduce their obligations, said the judge.

He allowed an appeal by a family of four living in a double bedroom in Harrow, Middlesex, against the refusal of Hillingdon council to re-house them as homeless people.

The council's housing department had decided that Mr and Mrs Ricky Pubhoffer and their sons were not homeless because they had been provided with appropriate accommodation in a guest house.

Mr Robin Barrett, for the council, told the court that the housing officials had been entitled to take into account the acute local housing shortage. After the judgment he said the family would be given "the first priority that administrative convenience permits." However, the council is to consider an appeal.

The judge said in his ruling: "I am entirely aware of the great burden that shortage of housing, stock of some local authorities places upon them, but I don't think that affects the general approach which is required by an authority."

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I declare that the information given by me on this form is correct.

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Please give number(s) of any other NSB Investment Account(s):

Rate of interest correct at time of going to press.

G23

Advice to police surgeons
inhumane, says doctor

Detention centre regime 'could kill asthmatics'

Alleen Ballantyne
sthma victims could die if
the advice given to police
surgeons is followed, it
was said yesterday.

Joe Collier, who runs an
asthma clinic at St James's
Hospital, London, said
the unpublished guidance
police surgeons were "im-
proper and inhumane."

He said the guidance
was "inadequate" and
stresses the "in-
active" nature of the
first weeks.

Collier said: "For a
person with asthma, exer-
cise in cold is quite cap-
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Bombed officer 'sure of survival'

By Paul Keel

A senior Royal Marine of-
ficer told the Old Bailey yester-
day that he was sure he
would not die after his car
had been blown up.

Sir Stewart Pringle, then
commandant-general of the
Royal Marines, who lost part
of his right leg in the bomb-
ing, said: "I knew that I was
badly injured, but that I was
not going to die. The shock
waves of damage I knew
had affected my legs but had
not travelled further up my
body."

"I was aware of this and
although towards the end,
before the emergency ser-
vices had cut me out, I got
very cold, I had little pain
and no doubts about my
survival."

Thomas Quigley and Paul
Kavanagh, both aged 29,

from Belfast, deny attempt-
ing to murder Sir Stewart in
October 1981. They also deny
between them nine other
charges, including three of
murder.

The prosecution has al-
leged that they were mem-
bers of an IRA active service
unit which made a series of
attacks on the mainland in
autumn 1981.

Sir Stewart, who served in
Northern Ireland as com-
mandant of 45 Commando from
February 1972, recalled in a
statement read out in court
the morning he left his
home in West Dulwich, Lon-
don, and got into his boot-
trapped car.

"I did not notice anything
unusual when I got into the
car. I put my dog Bella in
the back. Very soon after I

started the car I felt it going
over to the left. The wind-
screen shattered.

"I was moving into a lane
of traffic to travel south. I
heard a roar and saw my
legs moving to the roadside
of the car. Then I heard the
sound of falling bits and
pieces and then silence."

After about two seconds
Sir Stewart said he heard
someone shout. "It's a
bomb." He remembered call-
ing out to people to stay
away from the vehicle in
case there was a second
bomb. His dog was barking
in the back of the car.

"I looked at my fingers.
They were very messy. My
head and shoulders were
against the driver's door and
my left leg was in the well
by the passenger seat. I saw
that my right leg was a

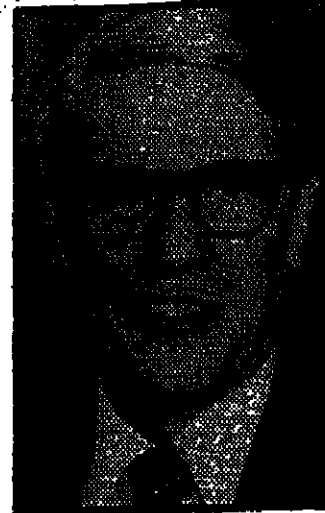
mess. My right foot and shoe
were on top of my leg."

Earlier yesterday the court
heard that the explosives ex-
pert, Mr Kenneth Howard,
who was killed in October
1981 while attempting to de-
fuse a bomb in a Wimpy bar
in Oxford Street, London,
may have been the victim of
an anti-handling device built
into it.

Mr Douglas Higgs, the for-
mer head of the forensic ex-
plosives section of the Royal
Armaments Research and
Development Establishment,
Woolwich, said that the
bomb should have gone off
before Mr Howard arrived.

But Mr Higgs said he sus-
pected that it was con-
structed so that the trigger-
ing action would occur when
it was touched.

The trial continues.



Stewart Pringle—
served in Ulster

Mystery black-out caused train crash

By Geoff Andrews

Transport Correspondent
A train driver's momentary
black-out for which doctors
and neurologists can find no
explanation, caused the Wem-
bley train crash in which three
people died and 18 were in-
jured in October.

The official inquiry into the
accident was told yesterday
that Mr Ronald Armstrong,
aged 63, could recall every sig-
nal he had passed on the jour-
ney from Euston until the cau-
tion signal just before the col-
lision where the crash occur-
ed.

But from that point until just
before the impact, when he
made an emergency brake
application, he had no recol-
lection of his actions, he told
the inquiry inspector, Major C. F.
Rose.

In his summing up Major
Rose said it was worrying that
a very experienced driver on a
line equipped with modern sig-
nalling and an automatic warn-
ing system had failed to heed
the danger signals which
should have prevented a
collision.

Yesterday's resumed hearing,
which heard evidence from Mr
Armstrong and a British Rail
doctor, had been delayed
because the case was referred
to the Director of Public Pro-
secutions in November.

Mr Armstrong said that the
day before the crash had been
his rest day, and on October 9
he had been rostered to drive
the Advanced Passenger Train
to Glasgow.

Because that service was
cancelled he was told to take

the 5.54 commuter train to
Bletchley, and after leaving on
time drove normally out of
Euston. He was able to recall
the aspect of every signal on
the route until he reached
Brentford, where there was
a double yellow "early warn-
ing" signal.

Mr Armstrong said that he
applied a small amount of
brake and cut power so that
he was travelling at about 60
mph, but had no recollection
whatsoever of the following
signal which was a single yellow,
indicating that a red stop
signal was immediately ahead.

He said that his next recol-
lection was the alarm as he
passed the red signal. "The
AWS brought me back to life,"
he said.

He made an emergency
brake application and let go of
the driver safety device, which
also applied the brakes. He
saw the freight train ahead as
it pulled on to the same line
near Wembley Central station.

Mr Armstrong said that in
July, while on holiday, he had
fallen from his loft while car-
rying a sack and had subse-
quently been prescribed pain-
killers. These made him
irritable and depressed.

He was then given a stronger pre-
scription but they made him
dizzy.

Although he had taken no
tablets after mid-August, when
he was still off duty because
of the fall, he had experienced
occasional flashing lights and
distorted vision. On the day
before the crash, he had been
forced to stop his car and wait
five minutes for the effect to
disappear.

MPs would be free to vote
as their consciences dictated,
but he would vote against.

MPs pressed him for a
date for the introduction of
a bill dealing with the
Warwick report recommenda-
tions, which he said the com-
mittee would be within the life of this
parliament.

Despite the Government's
neutral stance, Mr Clarke at-
tacked the Powell bill, saying
it came too soon and was
inadequately thought
through.

"It is extreme and
fundamentalist in its conse-
quences for a great deal of
medical and scientific
research." The effect would
be to knock a hole into the
central recommendation of
the Warwick committee.

Those who support the
bill must face up to the fact
that they are probably stop-
ping beneficial research.

Mr Alan Smith, the Liberal
chief whip, who voted in
favour of the bill, said:
"There is no prospect of a
government bill in the par-
liamentary timetable."

The bill's second reading
was agreed by 235 votes to
66, a majority of 170 for Mr
Powell. Among the 35 op-
ponent ministers and whips
who voted for it were Mr
John Biffen, the leader of
the House, Mr John
Widdows, the chief whip,
Mr John Gummer, chairman
of the Conservative Party,
and Mr Douglas Hurd, the
Northern Ireland Secretary.

The only government min-
isters to vote against the bill
were Mr Norman Fowler, the
Social Services Secretary, Mr
Kenneth Clarke, the Health
Minister, and Mr David
Mitchell, junior transport
minister. There were 170
Conservatives for the bill and
22 against.

The Labour vote was split
— 44 for the bill and 41
against. Shadow cabinet
members Mr John Smith, Mr
Michael Cook and Mr Don-
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NUJ may drop pensions inquiry

Patrick Wintour
reports on moves
to scrap the panel
investigating the
union's leadership

THE NATIONAL Union of
Journalists' executive will
hear a demand on Monday
that the union disband a
disciplinary panel set up to
hear complaints lodged
against the union's general
secretary and five national
officers.

A meeting of national
newspaper NUJ chapel lead-
ers last week passed a reso-
lution demanding an aban-
donment of the inquiry, and
accusing those supporting it
of attempting to "destroy"
the general secretary, Mr
Ken Ashton, and of conduct-
ing a smear campaign over a
decision to improve his
pension.

The five officers, who in-
clude the union's president
and vice-president, are ac-
cused of allowing "incom-
plete and misleading in-
formation" of a staff commit-
tee to be put to an emergency
committee meeting of the
union's executive.

As a result it is alleged,
the four members of the
emergency committee who
are not on the staff commit-
tee did not understand the
decision to improve Mr
Ashton's pension.

Under the disputed
arrangement, Mr Ashton
was given a pension equal to
40/60ths of his salary, an en-
titlement normally granted
under the union's pension
rules only to those with a
minimum of 40 years' ser-
vice. Without the improve-
ment, Mr Ashton's pension
would have been 33/60ths of
his salary on retirement in
seven years. The improve-
ment is costing the union
£16,100 a year for seven
years. A similar improve-
ment in the pension of the
union's financial controller is
costing £8,800 a year for 14
years.

A two-man internal inquiry
was set up last month and
has produced a report which
is highly critical of Mr As-
hton and the five officials.

Authority to increase Mr
Ashton's pension was given
by the staff committee on
November 8, 1983. The five
national officials currently
facing disciplinary charges
were at the meeting. Two
records of the meeting ap-
pear to have been kept. The
first minute said that "gen-
eral and specific pension im-
provements were considered
with a view to moving fur-
ther towards ending the
practice of ex-gratia pay-
ments". A second minute,
later submitted to the
union's emergency commit-
tee, reads: "The staff com-
mittee took the decision in
principle that no member of
staff should be disadvantaged
by entering the service of
the union at a relatively late
age, and recommends ap-
propriate adjustments in pen-
sion arrangements be made."

Although the staff commit-
tee had, according to its
minutes, made a decision
which in principle would af-
fect all late arrivals in the
union's service, this was not
discussed at a meeting on
staff pensions held a week
later between the National As-
sociation of Newspaper Em-
ployees, the union's pension
fund managers, and represen-
tatives of the union's head
office staff. It appears that
the decision of the staff com-
mittee was not communi-
cated to the staff.

The decision of the No-
vember staff committee was
endorsed on December 15, by
the emergency committee
which has powers to act on
behalf of the full executive.

The emergency committee
meeting was called primarily
to discuss whether to delay
an injunction against the
union under the Employment
Act granted to Mr David
Dimbleby, the proprietor of
the Richmond and Twicken-
ham Times.

The internal inquiry con-
cluded that it was "quite im-
proper" for the pension in-
crease, which had consider-
able financial implications
for the union, to have been
brought to such an important
meeting of the emergency
committee.

Mr Ashton absented him-
self from the part of the
meeting which agreed his
pension increase. The gen-
eral secretary's supporters
claim that the disciplinary
process is an attempt to
remove him from office to
let in a more leftwing
successor.

Mr Ashton was criticised
by internal inquiry

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Spring role: Children from the Commonwealth Institute school in London take part in a dragon dance to celebrate the spring festival. This marks the Chinese new year — which begins on February 20 — and will be the Year of the Ox

Picture by Frank Martin

PARLIAMENT

Phone tap bill 'needs extra safeguards'

By Malcolm Dean

The Government's bill on
telephone tapping was pub-
lished yesterday. It adopts
the proposals in the Govern-
ment's white paper on the interception
of telephone and mail communi-
cations which was published
eight days ago.

The critics may not have had
time to respond to the white
paper, but they are well pre-
pared with amendments to the
bill.

The most important change
they want is to extend the bill
to cover all surveillance
devices, and not just telephone
and mail interception.

Opposition to the bill will
not be restricted to civil liberty
lawyers and Opposition MPs.
The Law Commission, a stand-
ing committee of distinguished
lawyers who advise the
Government on law reform,
and the Royal Commission on
Criminal Procedure have set
out proposals for more safe-
guards than the bill provides.

Several of these are en-
dorsed by Tory peers, Con-
servative MPs, and judges sitting
in the House of Lords.

The bill places the present
procedure for a statutory basis.
This will allow Parliament to
vet the procedure as the bill
passes through each House,
and individuals to challenge
the rules in the courts once the
bill has been passed.

The bill will make un-
authorised interception a
criminal offence, and will set
up a five-member tribunal to
which people who suspect their
lines are being tapped illegally
can apply.

A law lord will review
authorised postal and telephone
interception and will produce
an annual report.

A clause which would ex-
tend the bill to cover all sur-
veillance devices was included
in a bill in the Law Commis-
sion's 1981 report on breach of
confidence.

Marie Staunton, the legal
officer of the National Council
for Civil Liberties, said yester-
day that there was widespread
support among MPs from all
parties for changing the pro-
cedure under which telephone
taps are authorised.

The NCCL has drafted a
clause which would require all
warrants authorising intercep-
tion to be issued by a judge.

The Government has had to
introduce the bill after a ruling
by the European Court of
Human Rights that the present
procedures were a breach of
the European convention be-
cause of their lack of a statu-
tory basis. The second reading
of the bill is due on February
28.

Commons protesters removed as Powell launches bill to ban embryo experiments

By Alan Travis

THE DEBATE on Mr Kenneth
Powell's bill banning experi-
ments with human embryos
was preceded by a fierce lob-
bying campaign.

On the eve of the debate
the Roman Catholic Arch-
bishop of Westminster, Car-
dinal Basil Hume, wrote to
every MP asking them to
support the bill. The Church
of England General Synod
this week also decided by a
narrow vote not to support
human embryo
experimentation.

Two of Labour's front-
bench spokesmen, Miss Jo
Richardson, on women's
rights, and Mr Frank Dobson,
on social services, had
written to all Labour MPs
asking them to oppose the
bill on the grounds that it
banned all research into in-
fertility problems, congenital
abnormalities and pre-empted
serious discussion of the
Warwick report, which
looked at the issues sur-
rounding test-tube babies,
surrogacy and legitimacy.

Mr Powell (Official Union-
ist Party, Down South) intro-
duced his bill in the Com-
mons yesterday, saying that
its single purpose was to
"render it unlawful for a
human embryo created by in-
vitro fertilisation to be used
as a subject of experimenta-
tion or indeed in any other
way or for any other pur-
pose except to enable a
woman to bear a child."

He stressed that the bill
was not concerned with
surrogacy or abortion, and
he claimed that it would not
prevent the use of embryo
technology to help women
bear a child when they were
otherwise unable to do so.

The bill makes it an offence
to have possession of an em-
bryo except with the written
authority of the Social Ser-
vices Secretary. The maxi-
mum penalty would be two
years' imprisonment.

The Bishop of Birmingham, Dr Hugh Montefiore, yesterday
offered to resign his chairmanship of the General Synod
committee whose views on experiments on human embryos
were rejected by the synod on Thursday, writes Maryn Halsall.

But the archbishops of Canterbury and York declined to
accept his resignation. "This was an emergency debate on one
of a number of recommendations," they said in a statement.

Dr Montefiore said that his chairmanship of the Synod's
Board for Social Responsibility was "a terrifying responsibility,"
and he was grateful for the archbishops' continued support.

The Council for the Protec-
tion of Rural England had ear-
lier argued just the opposite—
that since there had been no
power cuts this winter, the
CEGB was clearly capable of
surviving a long strike and
should not make such play



Mr St John-Stevens—
supported bill

About a dozen women
protesters interrupted his
speech when they threw con-
doms and contraceptive pills
from the public gallery and
let off screech sirens, blew
whistles and threw leaflets.

Attendees removed the
women, four of whom were
later detained by the police.

Mr Powell said that many
millions of the people who
supported the bill did so be-
cause it was in accordance
with their religious beliefs.

He conceded that to permit
experimentation on fertilised
embryos would open the way
to new medical knowledge.

Miss Richardson told the
MPs that the bill was no
more than a "licensed moth-
erhood at the behest of the
bureaucrats of Whitehall."

She said that the fear of
prosecution in the medical
profession would mean the
end of the observation of the
human embryo and would

lead the way for more
restrictive laws that limit a
woman's choice.

Mr Norman St John-Stevens,
former leader of the House,
said he supported the bill
but warned that even if it
secured the second reading it
could founder at its commit-
tee stages. He called for a
clear indication from the
Government that it would
provide time for the bill.

Mr Dafydd Wigley (Plaid
Cymru, Caernarvon) urged
him to "consider the well-

Vietnam crushes Khmer rebels

From Nicholas Cumming-Bruce in Bangkok

Vietnamese forces have dealt a crushing blow to the Khmer Rouge movement by completing their takeover of the Khmer Rouge stronghold of Phnom Malai yesterday, and pressing on to seize control of a string of camps along the border with Thailand.

A handful of Khmer Rouge guerrillas remained on Phnom Malai mountain to harass advancing Vietnamese units, Thai military sources reported, but the Vietnamese are now thought to be in control there and over all the other strategic mountain strongpoints in the area.

Vietnamese units yesterday overran and took to the torch the Khmer Rouge's showbase camp of Phnum Thmey, where only a week earlier the head of the resistance coalition government, Prince Sihanouk, drank champagne toasts with Khmer Rouge leaders and four new ambassadors presenting their credentials. Phnum Thmey was the last of a string of border camps south of the Thai town of Aranyaprathet to be seized by the Vietnamese.

Khmer Rouge guerrillas left the camp under attack after the Vietnamese gained control of Phnom Malai, according to the Thai military, but artillery bombardments and force fighting continued yesterday along the border, with the border running south from Aranyaprathet to Khao Din.

The bulk of the 10,000 Khmer Rouge guerrillas force is still intact, although it has been scattered in smaller units, the Thai military says. Khmer Rouge guerrillas were seen among the border camps who have fled across the border into Thailand to escape the fighting over the past week and are now gathered on two evacuation sites.

"There is still a lot of fighting, it is dangerous. We were in and out of the evacuation sites twice because of the shelling," one relief agency worker on the border reported. Shells have not hit the evacuation sites but have strayed sufficiently close to hamper delivery of water and relief supplies.

UN border relief operation officials are now negotiating with the Thai authorities to move inhabitants of evacuation sites close to Khao Din to a safer location.

The loss of the Phnum Malai complex of bases is the culmination of several weeks of heavy fighting, and represents the most severe defeat inflicted on the Khmer Rouge, the strongest faction in the tripartite resistance coalition, since Vietnam invaded Kampuchea six years ago.

In the three months since they launched their dry season offensive, Vietnamese forces have knocked out a number of lesser Khmer Rouge bases and all the military-civilian camps of the non-Communist Khmer People's National Liberation Front.

The one faction so far to escape Hanoi's military punishment has been the followers of Prince Sihanouk, occupying a single base on Kampuchea's northern border. Diplomats speculate that Hanoi still entertains hopes of drawing the prince into an accommodation with the Heng Samrin regime, or may aim simply to increase mutual distrust within the coalition.

The Vietnamese offensive falls within a strategy, clearly spelled out by Hanoi, of seeking to smash resistance enclaves along the border as a first step to throttling insurgency deeper inside the country.

Vietnamese troops are now expected to try to entrench themselves permanently along the border to prevent any resurgence of border camps and to interdict their lines of supply and communication.

The Vietnamese attacks will almost certainly have brought the border with the resistance group's logistics, particularly those of the KPNLF, which was particularly dependent on big border camps.

But military analysts question whether the Vietnamese will be able to maintain their forces in border areas through the May-to-November rainy season, and emphasise that it would in any case be impossible for them to seal the 800 miles of Thai-Kampuchean border, much of it rugged and densely forested.

58 die in tip-off raid

From Roland Edrington in Colombo

Fifty-eight Tamil guerrillas were killed yesterday when Government security forces, acting on a tip-off, overran a secret training camp in the Mullativu district in northern Sri Lanka. Mullativu was the scene two days ago, of a guerrilla attack on the fishing village of Kottai, in which four members of the security forces and 14 Tamil guerrillas were killed.

Meanwhile, India protested to Sri Lanka yesterday at the killing of two Indian fishermen, said to have been fishing in Indian waters in the Palk Strait and urged Colombo to show restraint in its campaign against Tamil separatists.

UN's formidable task hindered by political quagmire

\$1 bn more is needed in drought aid for Africa

From Jane Rosen in New York and Iain Guest in Geneva

UN officials in New York are putting the finishing touches to an appeal for more than \$1 billion of new funding to aid 20 African countries with Ethiopia as a top priority.

The appeal is being launched by the UN's new Africa unit which has received reports that the original targets for aid must be raised substantially. But there are doubts in Geneva, where the conference will open on March 11, as to how much can be achieved.

The appeal has been prepared by Mr Bradford Morse, the administrator of the UN development programme, who has been appointed head of the new Office for Emergency Operations in Africa (OEOA), set up in December to coordinate all UN efforts in Ethiopia and in other African countries suffering from chronic drought.

The UN special representative in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, Mr Kurt Jansson, has reported that the original 1985 targets for food, transport and other supplies must be raised substantially, and that the crisis may continue into 1986.

When OEOA was established, it was estimated that Ethiopia would need 1.3 million tons of food in 1985 to feed some 7.5 million people, mainly in the northern areas hit by drought.

Now, however, an additional 300,000 to 400,000 people must be fed, consequently, OEOA will raise its target by at least 250,000 tons this year.

The relief operation faces formidable political and logistical problems. OEOA cannot say how much food is reaching the war zones of Tigray and Eritrea where more than a quarter of Ethiopia's famine victims live.

In Geneva it is being suggested that this is hardly a

propitious moment for another huge appeal. Western governments are absorbed in their own problems and indifferent to the needs of the Third World — as witness Britain's recent refusal to contribute to World Bank's special fund for Africa.

Also, any UN programme in Africa will be sucked into a political quagmire. This was illustrated recently when the Ethiopian Government accused the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) of favouring Sudan at Ethiopia's expense in its distribution of emergency aid to refugees.

At the same time, the UNHCR is coming under considerable pressure from its principal donor, the US, to move quickly in assisting the refugees in Sudan.

Unicef, the children's fund, has identified five countries in special need: Chad, Sudan, Ethiopia, Mozambique, and Angola. All are in the throes of civil war.

The UNHCR has already launched its own appeal for \$86.4 million. In so doing, the High Commissioner, Mr Paul Harding, has taken a considerable risk. Emergency food aid of \$12.7 million has been allocated and no attempt is being made to distinguish between victims of drought and war among the refugees in eastern Sudan.

But to respond to the needs of 250,000 starving, destitute Ethiopian refugees in a drought-stricken, isolated area of Sudan may be an impossible task even for an agency that had not been buffeted by four years of pressure from its Western donors.

Mr Morse's budget of \$1 billion may seem a formidable sum. Unicef has appealed for \$57 million for Africa, and managed to raise only \$20 million. Mr Morse's own agency, the UNDP, has only found 55 per cent of the money it needs for its 1982-1986 programme.

Botha restates his ANC talks offer

From Patrick Laurence in Johannesburg

President P. W. Botha yesterday reaffirmed his willingness to hold talks with any organisation, including the banned African National Congress (ANC), which rejected violence.

The restating of his well-publicised position was made at a ceremony when the Star of South Africa, the country's highest award, was presented to eminent South Africans. It came after his statement on Thursday that the imprisoned ANC leader, Mr Nelson Mandela, had effectively shut the goal door on himself by refusing to renounce armed struggle in return for his freedom.

Mr Botha's reasons are unclear, he may have wished to keep open the option of talks with the ANC, but his motive may equally have been to

highlight his image, in the mind of his constituents, as a reasonable man, and that of the ANC as a fanatical movement dedicated to violence.

He also announced yesterday that his offer to release prisoners who have already served most of their sentence would be applied to prisoners who have only served a short term, except that they would be given "credit" rather than actually released.

In another development, two ANC men have been found guilty of murdering Mr Ben Langa, a former general secretary of the outlawed pro-black consciousness South African Students' Organisation. Mr Langa was shot dead last May.

The two men, Sipho Xulu and Lucky Payi, testified that Mr Langa was responsible for their killing, but that he had later harnessed the ANC by giving it false information.

Journalist escaped by blankets

DAMASCUS: An American journalist, Mr Jeremy Levin, who was kidnapped in Beirut last March, said yesterday that he escaped by using bed blankets to let himself down from a second-floor balcony.

Mr Levin, aged 52, who was formally handed over to the US Embassy here by Syrian officials yesterday, told reporters he was chained during detention.

"I was completely isolated. I was in solitary confinement for the whole time, chained to the wall or radiator," said Mr Levin, who was Beirut bureau chief for the US Cable News Network when he was seized.

"Suddenly, on Wednesday night, I thought that I had the best chance to escape. I got the chains off, tied three blankets together, climbed out of a window of the second floor to the balcony and went down the blankets."

He then moved as fast as he could until he reached a road and walked on until he found a Syrian army post.

After his kidnap, an anonymous caller saying he represented the shadowy Islamic Jihad (Holy War) group claimed responsibility.

A caller told a Western news agency yesterday that Islamic Jihad had freed Mr Levin after deciding he was not a spy. Syria's ambassador in Washington, Mr Rafic Joueidi, said Syria had negotiated his release.

Mr Levin has left Damascus for a reunion with his wife Lucille in West Germany. —Reuters/AP.

Israeli troops wait for pullout order

Sidon: The main pro-Israeli militia in southern Lebanon was reported yesterday to be disintegrating, and guerrillas kept up attacks as Israeli troops awaited final orders to retreat from the Sidon region.

Israel last year built up the self-styled South Lebanon Army and planned to give it an important role in preventing cross-border guerrilla attacks after Israeli troops leave the south. But security sources in Sidon said that it had now shrunk from 2,500 to 1,200 men, largely due to desertions since Israel's decision to leave.

Israeli motorised troops still patrolled the Sidon region, which they are to evacuate by Monday in the first stage of the three-part pullout, but guerrillas kept up the attacks they have mounted since the withdrawal decision.

A military source in Tel Aviv reported four overnight attacks throughout the south, but no casualties. He said that two Israeli positions were fired on and a roadside bomb exploded near a patrol. An SLA roadblock was also fired on.

Israeli troops appeared ready yesterday to abandon their Awali river front line, as part of the first stage of the withdrawal. A Lebanese traveller walked through the main crossing on the river from the north and told reporters that everything at the Israeli checkpoint looked "packed up and ready to go."

Reporters who drove the 17 miles down the coastal highway from the Awali to where the new Israeli line is to be said they saw only one Israeli armoured personnel carrier along the road.

It was posted at the Zahran roadblock that leads to the

Coloureds forced from blood-washed land

From Roger Omond in Hertzog, South Africa

MORE THAN 7,000 Coloured people, whose forefathers were given land by the Imperial Government 150 years ago in reward for siding with Britain in a war against African tribes, face removal from their homes under apartheid legislation. Their land is being given to the "independent" Coloured homeland.

The people of Kat River, an isolated and conservative community tucked away in the Eastern Cape, have not been told when they will have to leave. One of those affected believes it could be in April. In a number of cases, offers of compensation have still not been made, while in others the

SOUTH Africa is speeding up preparations to remove tens of thousands of African squatters from Crossroads camp near Cape Town to the new township of Khayelitsha, 16 miles from the city. The removal is said to be for health and safety reasons.

sums have been low. Pleas that the community be used as a bloc appear to have been ignored by the South African Government.

The village of Hertzog, bisected by a dusty, dirt road, illustrates the difficulties in implementing apartheid and untangling mixed communities. Pointing to the one shop, the elderly schoolmaster, Mr Dan Bailey, said: "This is in 'white' South Africa. The house behind it is in Ciskei."

"My next door neighbour's house belongs to an African, yet a white used to live in it. When he moved out, I had to apply for a permit for a Coloured teacher to live there."

Mr Bailey and other Coloured (mixed race) leaders emphasised that there has been little friction between Africans, Coloureds, and whites in the Kat River. Whites, in



Andrew Arends ... facing removal after 77 years on his land

fact, had lived on land owned by Coloureds, some for generations.

The Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs, Mr Piet Badenhorst, claimed in parliament last year that the community did not respond to an

Dr Jeff Peires, an historian from Rhodes University in Grahamstown who has taken a close interest in the community, says that government departments have been passing the buck among themselves.

The white MP for Albany, Mr E. K. Moorcroft, accuses the government of evading its responsibility. When he last raised the matter in parliament, the government said that a decision had not been reached on the community's fate.

It had, however, made offers for individual plots of land without giving assurances that an alternative site would be provided where the community could resettle.

"The abiding fear is that once individuals have been paid compensation for their land, the government will claim to have met its obligations and will therefore no longer be prepared to negotiate a new site for the community," Mr Moorcroft said.

"This would leave little opportunity for the residents to find suitable land elsewhere, especially as they are given only three months to move once they have been paid out. Compensation is a sore point for many in the community."

"One man was paid for his ploughed land but not for his house," Mr Bailey said. A spokesman for the Grahamstown Rural Committee, which is trying to help these and other victims of the government's removal policy, said that some Kat River individuals would receive less than R1,000 (£500) for jointly

property. Dr Peires said that people who moved to urban areas would have to pay R20,000 for a plot of land without a house. In the Coloured areas of the two closest cities, East London and Port Elizabeth, there is a long queue for housing.

One of those waiting to see how much he will be paid is Mr Andrew Arends. He and a

brother farm 13 morgen (26 acres) at Tamboekiel, a few miles from Hertzog. "I've lived here all my 77 years," he said in front of his square whitewashed home. "My father was here before me. I don't know how much I'll get. And will it be enough to move elsewhere?"

The land, Dr Peires said, is in the people's blood; they refer to it as bloodground. Most of those waiting to be moved are farmers and often dry, but the farmers scratch a living from meelies and vegetables.

Mr Piet Draghoender shares a farm of just more than three morgen. He says: "This land was washed clean by blood. The blood of my grandfather. After my grandfather, there came a war... three boys I gave up for death to make this place free."

The land was a reward for services rendered to the British Crown in the frontier wars of the last century. It was founded, Dr Peires said, "as the one corner of the Cape Colony where Coloured people, dispossessed of all effective rights on the land which was once theirs, could possess property of their own."

Descendants of some of the original settlers fought in the first and second world wars for South Africa on Britain's side. "The government doesn't take account of that," Mr Bailey said.

Mr Arends added: "Whenever we say to the minister and his civil servants that we were given the land by the Imperial Government, they just say that there's no Imperial Government now."

Mr Bailey said: "We're part of this country. There must be a place for us under God's sun."

All we ask is that we be allowed to remain here until the old people die peacefully. Other people will die along the road."

Zimbabwe poll delay

From Andrew Meldrum in Harare

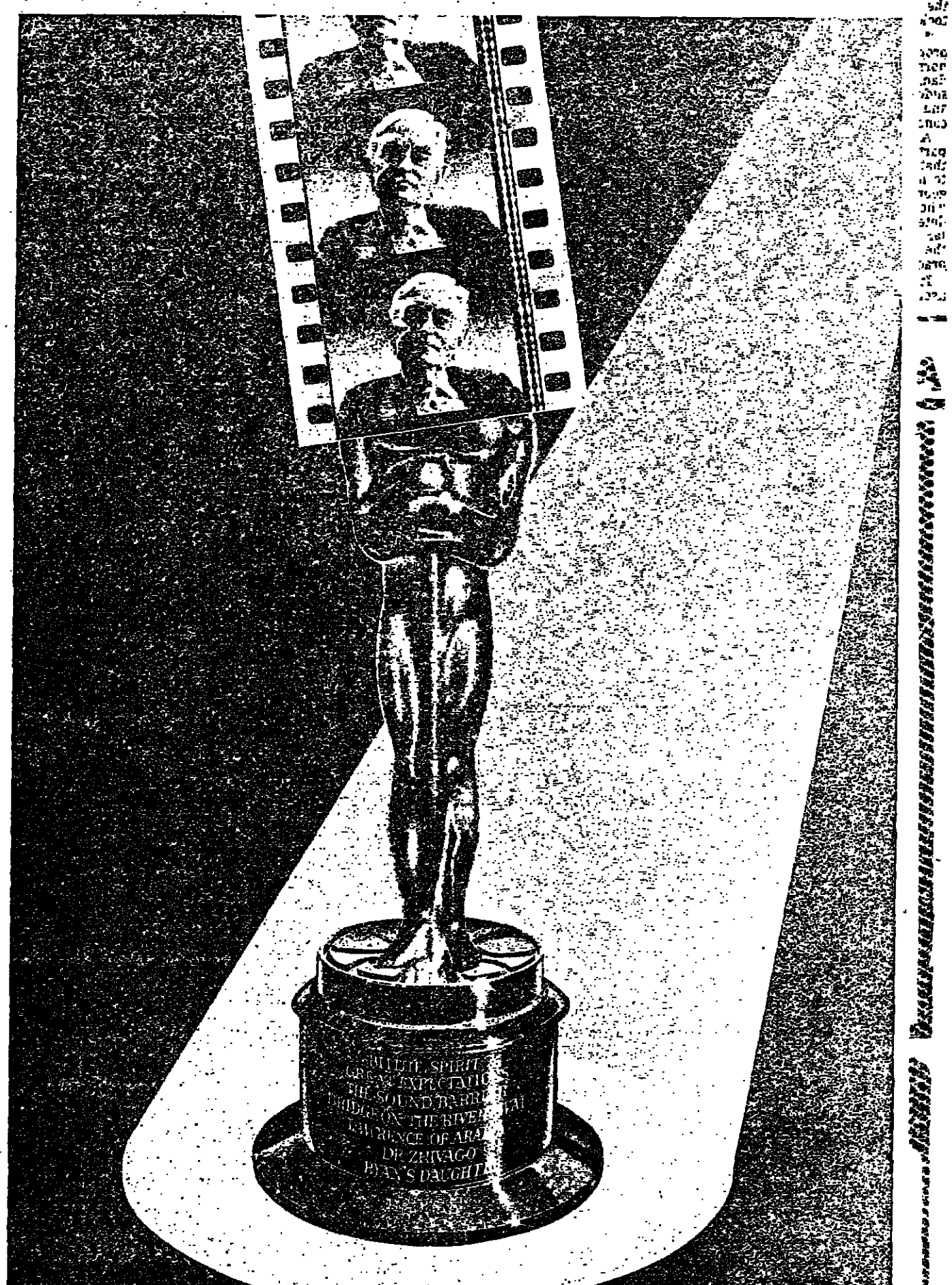
A new committee has been set up to examine whether it is possible for Zimbabwe's national elections to be held in March.

The Prime Minister, Mr Robert Mugabe, told a group of commercial farmers yesterday that he had appointed a committee of cabinet ministers to study the situation and make a report next week. Mr Mugabe said that the committee would announce if it is possible to have the elections in March, and, if not, when a likely time would be.

The problem delaying the elections is the work to be done to draw up Zimbabwe's electoral constituencies. A commission is working to divide the country into districts. Sources say that even working with computers, the delimitation work will not be finished for two more months. They say that June is a more likely possibility for the elections.

Yesterday was the last day for Zimbabweans to register to vote. It is estimated that about three million people will have registered, of Zimbabwe's 7.8 million population.

To prepare for the elections, Zimbabwe's main parliamentary body, the House of Assembly, has already dissolved until September so that members can campaign.



DAVID LEAN-A LIFE IN FILM
FROM 'IN WHICH WE SERVE' TO 'A PASSAGE TO INDIA'
SUNDAY NIGHT AT 9.45
IN A LIVING ROOM NEAR YOU

LW/T

LONDON WEEKEND TELEVISION

Nuclear allergy spreads to allies

From Mark Tran in Washington

A senior Pentagon official has expressed impatience at anti-nuclear sentiments among allies as Greece and Spain show increasing irritation with American defence policies.

The assistant defence secretary, Mr Richard Perle, said in a television interview, "I don't see how in the long run we can ask the American people to bear the risks of war to defend allies who will have nothing to do with us when delicate issues like the movement of nuclear weapons are involved."

His remarks follow the spread of what has been described here as "nuclear allergy" to yet another ally — Spain. Madrid has reacted angrily to a report that the Pentagon is planning to place nuclear weapons in Spain. According to the report the US would store 32 nuclear depth charges in Spain for anti-submarine warfare to block the Straits of Gibraltar. Spain has said it would not permit its sovereignty to be violated by any secret plan of any country.

The US maintains four bases in Spain. A Spanish-American accord providing for the use of the bases bans nuclear weapons from Spain. To limit the damage, the US Embassy in Madrid had to put out a statement saying that the US would not deploy nuclear arms without the prior agreement of the host government.

Meanwhile, according to a Washington Post report, the Pentagon is making contingency plans to remove US military bases from Greece, which has been a headache for the administration. There is general agreement, says the paper, about the wisdom of getting ready to pull out of Greece if the Prime Minister, Mr Andreas Papandreu wins a new four-year term in this year's elections and sticks to his plan to close the four bases in 1988.

The Pentagon is reportedly willing to bring matters to a head, while the State Department favours a more low key approach.

Defence funding likely to be reduced by at least \$1 bn

Star Wars budget faces savage cuts in Congress

From Michael White in Washington

President Reagan's vastly enhanced Star Wars budget is likely to be savagely cut as it goes through the two houses of Congress, according to congressional sources.

The programme, funding for which was recently almost tripled to \$3.7 billion by the President, is likely to be cut by at least \$1 billion, and perhaps by much more, say some Democrats. The myriad nature of the programme, embracing many old and new individual research efforts, and the President's strong commitment, mean that Star Wars will definitely survive, but the consensus in Washington is that it will be significantly slowed down by Congress.

The budget problem is here and now and the opponents of Star Wars are seizing it. "It is the handle to get at Congress because of the \$300 billion deficit," explains one, simply. The Pentagon budget unveiled last week is the highest in peace-time history, higher even than Vietnam's \$313 billion for fiscal year 1986, which starts in October. The strategic defence initiative (SDI or Star Wars) would get its budget almost tripled from the \$1.4 billion Congress allocated last year to \$3.7 billion, a figure which shows every sign of the Pentagon having cut back the 1985 congressional cut of \$300 million-plus some.

The process will be repeated between now and September, when first the authorisation bill—detailing how the spendings should be done—and then the appropriation bill—writing the cheques—go simultaneously through both houses of Congress, eventually to be spliced together. The consensus is that Star Wars will be severely mauled.

It puts together a huge coalition of vested interests. But this too makes it vulnerable.

Some analysts predict that Congress could "argue about the second digit," but anything less than \$3 billion would start to unravel the coalition. But the congressmen know that, whatever Defence Secretary Weinberger tells them, they can and will cut it.

On Capitol Hill, Democrats eager for reform of the military, its spending practices and central structure, like Senators Gary Hart and Sam Nunn, will get some support from liberal Republicans.

But the real damage is more likely to come in the lower house. A formidable obstacle to Mr Weinberger is now in place. The Defence Appropriations Committee, chaired since 1979 by wise-cracking Joe Rostenkowski, has focused for years on Pentagon waste—not always successfully. But this year the House Armed Services Committee will assume new significance. After years in the Pentagon doldrums, it has a fresh chairman in Les Aspin, in Europe with Mr Weinberger last week for the Star Wars talks — a Wisconsin Democrat and ex-Pentagon official, rightist in Democratic terms but formidable and sceptical.

Rather more troubling for Mr Reagan, however, are the Republicans. Some of them, like the new Senate leader, Bob Dole, want Mr Weinberger to stop being "a top dodger" in the search for budget cuts. Yesterday, Senator Barry Goldwater, mellowed these days but still no dove, was reported as saying that the Pentagon should chip in \$35 billion over three years.

These fiscally cautious Republicans, left and right, are joined for other reasons by military buffs like Wyoming's Senator Malcolm Wallop, who think that Star Wars research is pie in the sky. What they want is good money spent on weapons systems to stop the Commies here and now.

Nuclear ban may hit NZ trade

From Ian Templeton in Wellington

ALTHOUGH the New Zealand Government has imposed its ban on the nuclear ships of its allies without destroying the Anzus defence pact, it is facing the hard fact that its trade could suffer even if the Reagan Administration does not directly impose any form of trade sanction.

The Prime Minister, Mr David Lange, has been forced to concede that New Zealand can no longer expect the favourable treatment it has received in the past from Washington.

Throughout the controversy, over New Zealand's refusal to accept visits by nuclear-capable warships, Mr Lange has reaffirmed New Zealand's commitment to Anzus.

But he has argued that his Government sees the treaty as a conventional alliance. The United States and Australia see another element encompassed in the framework of the alliance—that of the nuclear deterrent. But that, he says, is entirely a matter for those governments.

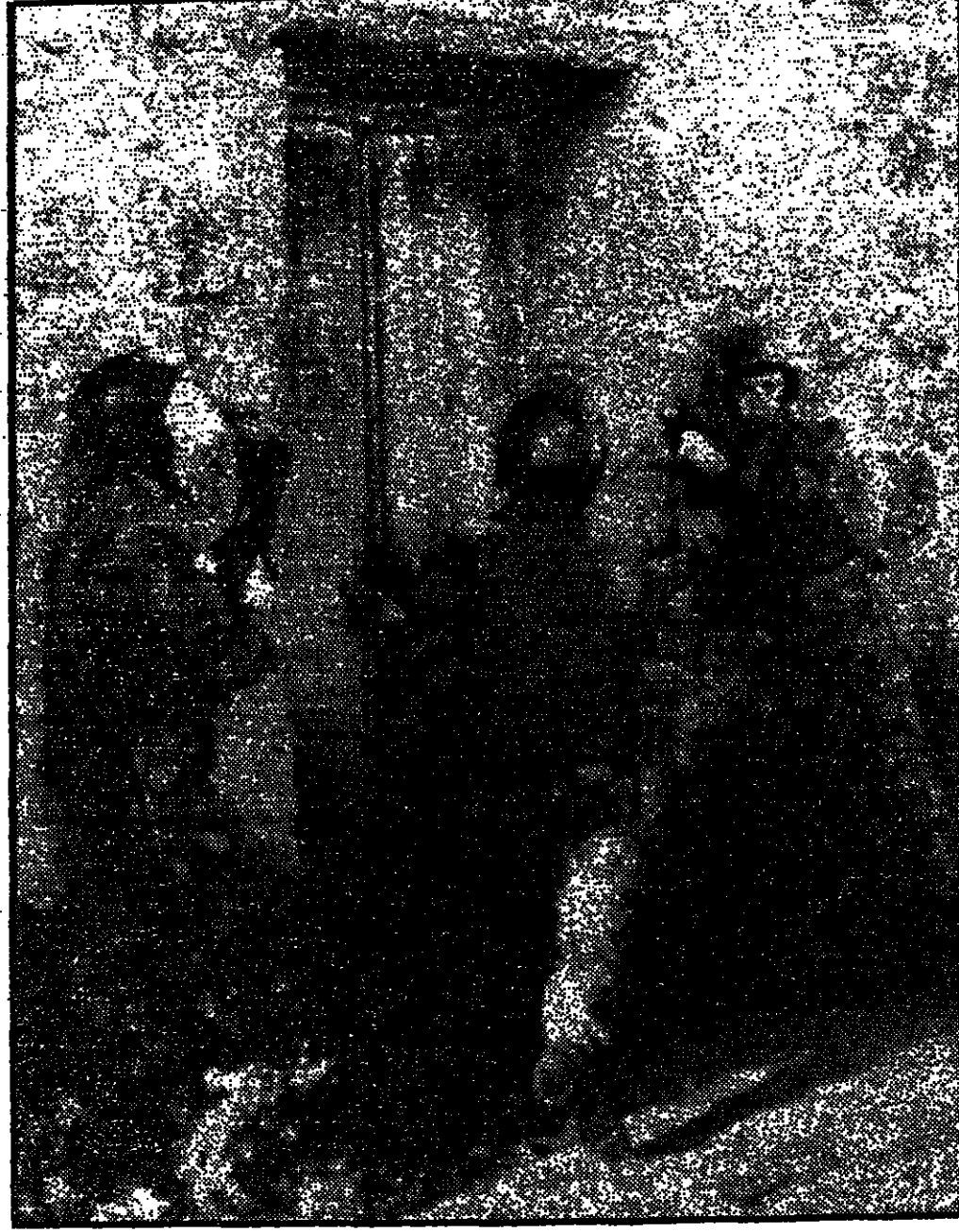
By contrast, his Government had chosen to take a different approach, endorsed by the electorate, which was entirely relevant to its strategic position and consistent with its obligations as an ally of Australia and the United States.

The US, however, felt it was disadvantaged by New Zealand's exclusion of nuclear weapons.

"It would be idle to pretend that it is not a serious disagreement between allies, but a disagreement is what it is—it is not a breach," Mr Lange says.

While the Prime Minister says he has received assurances from Washington that there will be no economic sanctions, he has acknowledged that New Zealand will have to work harder in Washington to avert protectionist moves aimed at blocking New Zealand goods entering the US.

The anti-nuclear stand has commanded support from all factions within the Labour movement.



Carabinieri paratroops break into a farm building near Palermo during a swoop on Sicilian mafia hideouts

Secret mafia base found

From George Armstrong in Rome

The carabinieri police have found what they believe to be the former underground headquarters of a Sicilian mafia in a network of tunnels beneath a district east of Palermo.

The discovery of the half mile of tunnels is being linked with the confessions of a recently arrested mafia boss, Tommaso Buscetta.

Entrances to the linking caves were behind a fake fireplace in one house, and behind a fitted wardrobe in another. In the house of Michele Greco, a mafia boss recently given, in his absence a life sentence for the assassination of a Sicilian magistrate, a third entrance was found beneath the kitchen floor. The police had stood over that entrance a few months ago when they were questioning Greco's wife.

The underground tunnels converged at a circular chamber, four feet in height and carved from the rock. It had benches round the walls and is thought to have been used as the board room for meetings between the American and local mafia.

One of the tunnels emerged beneath what appeared to be from the outside, an abandoned peasant's shack. It was fitted with burglar alarms and the furnishings would have been suitable for a first class hotel suite. This could have served as the guest-house for a visiting American mafioso.

US 'out to wreck the UN'

From Anna Tomforde in Bonn

Officials were at pains yesterday to present the unexpected change in the programme for President Reagan's state visit to West Germany in May as something "quite usual".

The President will not now take part in any German commemoration of the fortieth anniversary of VE Day.

While the government spokesman, Mr Peter Boenisch, said that Mr Reagan had cut short his visit in order to be in Washington for the Congress debate on the 1985 budget, Foreign Ministry officials made it clear that they had been taken by surprise.

President Reagan will now stay for only a two-day state visit on May 5 and 6, after attending the Western economic summit in Bonn from May 2 to 4.

His state visit to West Germany, originally intended to extend to May 8, was cut short after a considerable discussion between Washington and Bonn over how best to mark the anniversary.

Initially, there had been strong indications that President Reagan wanted to visit the former Dachau concentration camp, with Chancellor Kohl, and that the two would also meet at a Second World War battlefield.

American newspapers said yesterday that the visit had been cut short out of consideration for West German sensitivities over the anniversary, but also because President Reagan had given into pressure from war veterans and the influential Jewish community at home.

However, there can be no doubt that the Germans, who have succeeded in bringing forward the economic summit so that it anticipates the anniversary — and who are expecting a joint Allied gesture of reconciliation at the summit — are relieved over the new schedule.

Reagan changes VE programme

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Toll from 40 years of wars

ARMED conflicts have taken up to 21 million lives since the Second World War and as recently as 1983 some four million troops were fighting in 75 countries, according to a United Nations study released yesterday.

During 1983, 40 separate conflicts were identified and eight countries had troops fighting on foreign soil, the UN said in its annual report on the world social situation.

"In conflicts where it is possible to make a meaningful distribution between casualties in and out of uniform, three out of every five fatalities were civilians," it said.

It put the average death toll from armed conflict at between 33,000 and 41,000 a month since 1945. — Reuters.

Singer arrested

STEVIE WONDER and 47 other people were arrested outside the South African Embassy in Washington yesterday during a protest against Pretoria's apartheid policy. Police said the 34-year-old singer and the others were released and will appear in court later.

Meanwhile, Harvard University announced that it had sold \$1 million of stock in Baker International, because the company did not adhere to reasonable standards to improve the welfare of its non-white employees in South Africa. — Reuters/AP.

Better showing

THIRTY per cent of French people believe President Mitterrand has performed well in office, compared with only 25 per cent last November, according to an opinion poll published yesterday in the magazine *La Vie Française*. The poll also showed that the number disapproving of his performance fell to 57 per cent from 61 per cent. — Reuters.

Gulf attack

ONE crewman died and three were wounded aboard a Liberian tanker which was attacked by Iraqi jets in the Gulf on Thursday, the official Iranian news agency reported yesterday. It said the ship the *Neptunia* was set ablaze by attacking Iraqi planes about 30 miles south of the Iranian port of Bushehr. — AP.

Interpol moves

FRENCH police inspector Francois Rossard, aged 58, has resigned as secretary-general of the International Criminal Police Organisation. Interpol spokesman said yesterday. The news came on the same day as Interpol announced that it is to move its headquarters from Paris to Lyons. — Reuters.

Court changes

THE World Court has elected an Indian Judge, Nagendra Singh, aged 70, as its new president, and a French judge, Guy Lardret, de Lacharrière, aged 65, as its vice-president, a court spokesman in The Hague confirmed yesterday. — AP.

Hints of a deal in Vienna talks

From Alex Brummer in Washington

The United States said yesterday that it would be willing to reassess the Soviet Union's role in the Middle East peace process if Moscow took certain steps which demonstrated it wanted to be helpful in the region.

Among steps suggested were a restoration of full diplomatic relations between Moscow and Jerusalem and a resumption of large scale emigration of Soviet Jews. If these criteria were met, the US indicated that it might be willing to discuss Moscow's long standing desire for a Middle East negotiating conference.

The American comments were made at a State Department briefing on the objec-

tives for next Tuesday's talks in Vienna between high-ranking US and Russian Middle East policymakers. The US official who gave the briefing went to great lengths to lower expectations stressing that the talks were more about the "management of US-Soviet relations" than the Middle East itself.

Next week's meeting between the US assistant secretary of state for Near East affairs, Mr Richard Murphy, and his Russian opposite number, Mr Vladimir Polyakov, will be the first formal US-Soviet talks on the Middle East since 1977. The American official said yesterday that the US proposal for such talks had been on the table for more than two years and it was only in the run-up to January's arms con-

trol talks in Geneva that the Russians indicated "their interest".

The Americans particularly want to reduce the potential for accidental confrontation in the Lebanon following the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Sidon, the Russian invasion of Afghanistan and concerns about freedom of navigation in the Gulf. They expect the Russians to repeat their demands for a full scale negotiating session on the fundamental problem of the Palestinians.

The American officials said that while there was no desire for a "US-Soviet condominium" in the region, Washington would look anew at Moscow's role in the region should it meet the criteria the US was

setting on relations with Israel. If the Russian position does "evolve" the US would reassess whether their ideas were "helpful" the official noted cautiously.

After the press circus which developed around the arms control talks with the Russians in January, the US is clearly determined that the Vienna discussions be as low key as possible. The US will take a small delegation comprised of Mr Murphy, a National Security Council official and a Middle East expert from the Moscow Embassy and it is expected the Russians will have a similar team. The talks will be held at the respective US and Soviet embassies in Vienna and there will be no press briefings or communiqués issued on the spot.

Spain expels two American envoys

Madrid: The Prime Minister, Mr Felipe Gonzalez, yesterday confirmed Spanish newspaper reports that Spain has expelled two US diplomats.

The reports, in two leading Madrid dailies, said the two diplomats were expelled earlier this month for suspected espionage.

The US embassy declined to comment on the reports. The dailies, *El Pais* and *ABC*, said that the two diplomats had left the country 10 days ago after Spain's secret service detected suspected espionage activities.

But the papers had conflicting reports on their identity. The independent daily *El Pais* said the officials were an embassy second secretary and a civilian working at one of four Spanish military bases used by American troops, while *ABC* said both were embassy staff.

The expulsions were reported a day after a row over reports in Spanish papers that the US had contingency plans to deploy nuclear weapons in Spain.

The Foreign Ministry said it knew nothing of the plans and reiterated the Socialist Government's policy of banning nuclear weapons from Spanish territory. Officials said that the plans would violate Spanish sovereignty.

The rightwing opposition said it would table parliamentary question on the issue and the Communist Party accused the US of treating Spain like a Third World country.

The US embassy said later that nuclear weapons would not be deployed without the consent of the countries involved. — Reuters/AP.

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Bulgaria denies it has a Turkish problem

From Bella Pick in Sofia

BULGARIA'S president, Mr Todor Zhivkov, insists that "nothing tragic or special" has happened "to the so-called Bulgarian Turks."

The Bulgarian leader declared yesterday that "the Bulgarian Turks are not part of the Turkish nation," and "that no other country has the right to interfere."

However, he was adamant that no attempt was being made to suppress the practice of Islam in Bulgaria and he strongly denied allegations that the Bulgarian authorities were forcing any citizens to adopt Bulgarian names in place of Turkish names, or that there had been any clashes between the police and Bulgarian Turks.

Earlier in the week Mr Zhivkov had asked Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary, who was going on to Ankara,

to convey Bulgaria's desire to maintain the existing friendly relations with Turkey.

The Bulgarian authorities insist that there are virtually no ethnic Turks left in the country and no campaign to force those with Turkish names to assimilate into Bulgarian life.

The version the West is that there may be close to one million ethnic Turks in Bulgaria, accounting for up to 10 per cent of the population, and that the Bulgarian authorities have recently accelerated a campaign to suppress their Turkish and Islamic identity.

This, claimed, has led to violent clashes and maybe even numerous deaths. Western diplomats in Sofia concede that they have no first-hand knowledge to substantiate any of these allegations.

The Bulgarians say they are victims of a slander campaign, probably inspired by the United States, but they are

refusing both diplomats and journalists access to the parts of the country close to the Turkish frontier. They say they have nothing to hide, but give the impression of refusing to allow outsiders to assume the role of grand inquisitor.

Although the Turkish government has recalled its ambassador in Sofia for consultations, one of Bulgaria's deputy foreign ministers, Mr Luben Gotsev, said in an interview that "I assume they understand that there is no reason for concern. On a government-to-government level relations are very good, and we have no problems."

He confirmed that Bulgaria had complained about reports

Secret
mafia
base
found

NEWS
IN BRIEF
Toll from
40 years
of wars

Doctor showing

Unit attack

Interpol moves

Court changes

JPL 10150

Bank of Scotland

BANK OF SCOTLAND Account Details

Account No 00428407

Balance	125.84
Today's items	65.00
Fund transfers pending	30.00
Keycard withdr. pending	0.00
Interest accrued	1.12
Charges accrued	0.50
Overdraft limit	200.00
Cash available from Keycard	70.00

Key 1 To confirm this payment
2 To change this payment
3 To cancel this payment

UP TO DATE INFORMATION.

Bank of Scotland

Make Bill Payments

Mandate No 104

Reference 472021210012

Account to be debited on 04th February 1985

Amount £174.26

Bill paid by 06th February 1985

No changes after 30th January 1985

Key 1 To confirm this payment
2 To change this payment
3 To cancel this payment

PAYMENT OF BILLS.

Bank of Scotland

BANK OF SCOTLAND Inter-account transfers

From Current Account No 00428407
Grant J A Pers. Acc
Home Banking Centre

To Investment Account No 02037184
Grant J A
Home Banking Centre

Amount £100.00

Key 1 To send 2 Not to send
3 Change Accounts 4 Change Amount 5 Change both

INTER-ACCOUNT TRANSFERS.

Bank of Scotland

Standing Order Details

Upland Electricity Monthly	30Jan85	30Nov85	32.40
British Gas Monthly	06Feb85	06Sep85	31.15
Midshires Council Monthly	01Feb85	01Mar85	57.81
General Life Ass Monthly	31Jan85	N.A.	22.45
United Auto Ins Quarterly	15Mar85	15Jun85	26.95

Key 1 More standing orders
2 Finish

STANDING ORDER DETAILS.

Bank of Scotland

A/C No 00428407 Statement

Date	Details	Amount	Balance
11Jan85	398410	45.00	226.97
11Jan85	P B Oil	8.75	235.72
12Jan85	398412	27.42	208.30
13Jan85	Keycard 90375603	100.00	108.30
14Jan85	Bank Giro Credit	47.52	155.82
14Jan85	398413	29.98	125.84

Key 1 Earlier items
2 Finish

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT.

Bank of Scotland

BANK OF SCOTLAND Cash Management

146 High St Southampton

ACCOUNT 00161407 CURRENCY STG

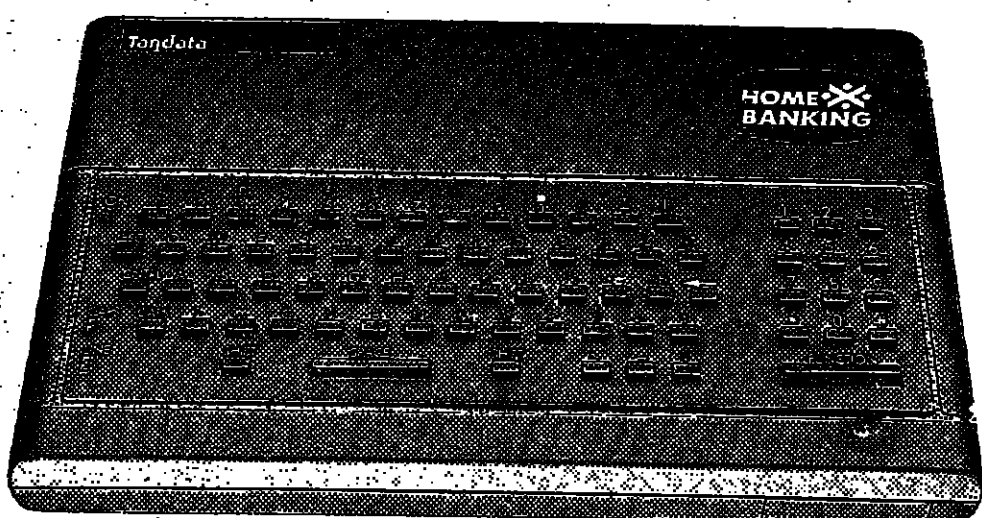
Ledger position on first lines
Debitments expiring and cleared
position on second lines

Date	Credits	Debitments
14Jan1985	1,456	504
15Jan1985	389	750
16Jan1985	0	1,048
17Jan1985	0	2,884
	0	0
	327	2,094

Key 1 Finish

CASH MANAGEMENT FOR BUSINESSES.

New from Bank of Scotland. Home Banking throughout the UK.



Bank of Scotland is pleased to announce the latest in a long line of "firsts".
As the first bank in the UK to launch comprehensive home banking nationally, we have turned science fiction into fact. Now you can manage your money from the comfort of your own armchair.

It's banking at your fingertips.

With Bank of Scotland's Home Banking service, direct access to your accounts is—literally—at your fingertips.
No more queues, no more delays, no more confusion. You can move your money around, check any aspect of your accounts and pay your bills SEVEN DAYS A WEEK, ALMOST ROUND THE CLOCK.
You can operate a Current Account, a Budget Account, a Money Market Cheque Account or obtain up to the minute details of your personal loans.
In fact, most Bank services can now be carried out in YOUR own good time!

Monitor the ebb and flow of your Current Account.

Whenever you like—even on a Sunday evening—you can check your balance, see what transactions you have pending, any bank charges or interest accrued and details of standing orders. You can order a cheque book and statement, and see how much cash you can obtain at any given moment. And that's just for starters.

Pay bills just by lifting a finger.

Forget about queuing or posting cheques. Now you can pay key bills via Home Banking. Simply tell us how much you want to pay—and when—and we'll do the rest.

Move your money where the interest is.

Our Home & Office Banking Investment Account—specially developed for Home Banking—makes this easy.
Whenever you have spare cash in your Current Account, you can transfer it into our new Investment Account simply by entering the details on your screen. Your money will immediately start to earn interest.

When you need to use it, even if only a few days later, you can transfer it back to your Current Account just as easily. In this way you can make your money work for you, and still have it the moment you need it.

The office user can bank on it too.

With this service, Office Banking becomes a reality for many businesses.

They will find the service immensely time-saving and cost effective in keeping track of cashflow and verifying transactions through their bank accounts, as well as earning really useful interest on spare funds.

All these facilities are available now to businesses for payments which can be authorised by a single signature and developments currently in hand will provide for multiple authorisation in the future.

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Bank of Scotland's Home Banking is brought to you through Prestel, the extensive Viewdata system from British Telecom. That means you also have access to thousands of Prestel pages, such as message services including Telex, teleshopping, telebooking, news, weather reports and much more.

A whole new world of communications and information is suddenly there for you to use in your own home.

Simple to use yet completely secure.

Home Banking is so easy to operate a child could do it. However, our security precautions are such that no child (or adult!) can—unless you choose to let them, of course.

On Prestel Financial Services.

To use the system you must first enter your Prestel security codes followed by your Bank of Scotland codes which only you will know. These can be changed by you at anytime.

Discover what Home Banking can mean to you.

This is your opportunity to be one of the first to benefit from the technology of the future. And remember, you can use it anywhere in the UK.

There's a bonus if you decide Home Banking is for you. You can take advantage of our special introductory offer. Initial subscribers will be able to buy—at a very special price—our Prestel adaptor, which links your TV and telephone into the system.

All the details of this offer—and indeed of every aspect of Home Banking from Bank of Scotland—are in our comprehensive information pack.

FREEPOST the coupon and find out how tomorrow's money management can be at your fingertips today!



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Post to: Home Banking Centre, Bank of Scotland, FREEPOST, Edinburgh, EH1 0AA.

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Saturday 16 February 7.30pm
A NIGHT IN VENICE, USC Concert Orchestra.
Barry Wordsworth (conductor), Barry Hill (violin), Dr Edward Strauss (piano), Barry Hill (violin), Dr Edward Strauss (piano), Barry Hill (violin), Dr Edward Strauss (piano).

Sunday 17 February 7.30pm
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, London Symphony Chorus.
Richard Hickox (conductor), Blodwen Harty (soprano), Alastair Harty (tenor), Robert Tear (bass), John Gillingham (bass), Alastair Harty (tenor), Robert Tear (bass), John Gillingham (bass).

Tuesday 19 February 8.00pm
CAPITALS HALF CENTURY CONCERT.
The Orchestra of London and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and the London Philharmonic Orchestra.

Wednesday 20 February 8.00pm
INTERNATIONAL LUNCHEON CONCERT - SCOTTISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA.
Michael Stempel (conductor), Joseph Beethoven (violin), Michael Stempel (violin), Michael Stempel (violin).

Thursday 21 February 8.00pm
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA.
Richard Hickox (conductor), Blodwen Harty (soprano), Alastair Harty (tenor), Robert Tear (bass), John Gillingham (bass), Alastair Harty (tenor), Robert Tear (bass), John Gillingham (bass).

Friday 22 February 8.00pm
THE PRINCE OF PEACOCK.
A complete and outstanding performance by the London Symphony Orchestra, Pamela Field, Alexander Kipnis, Elizabeth Belding, Joanne Moore, Terry Jenkins, Eric Stirling, Michael Wainman, Harry Duguid, Paul Hudson, Richard Balcombe (conductor).

Sunday 24 February 7.30pm
CITY OF LONDON SYMPHONY.
Dawn Sedgwick (conductor), Anthony Goldstone (piano), Andrew Widdows (violin), James Clark (violin), Benjamin Waller (violin), David Widdows (violin), James Clark (violin), Benjamin Waller (violin), David Widdows (violin).

Monday 25 February 7.30pm
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA.
Richard Hickox (conductor), Blodwen Harty (soprano), Alastair Harty (tenor), Robert Tear (bass), John Gillingham (bass), Alastair Harty (tenor), Robert Tear (bass), John Gillingham (bass).

Tuesday 26 February 7.30pm
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA.
Richard Hickox (conductor), Blodwen Harty (soprano), Alastair Harty (tenor), Robert Tear (bass), John Gillingham (bass), Alastair Harty (tenor), Robert Tear (bass), John Gillingham (bass).

Wednesday 27 February 7.30pm
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA.
Richard Hickox (conductor), Blodwen Harty (soprano), Alastair Harty (tenor), Robert Tear (bass), John Gillingham (bass), Alastair Harty (tenor), Robert Tear (bass), John Gillingham (bass).

Thursday 28 February 7.30pm
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA.
Richard Hickox (conductor), Blodwen Harty (soprano), Alastair Harty (tenor), Robert Tear (bass), John Gillingham (bass), Alastair Harty (tenor), Robert Tear (bass), John Gillingham (bass).

Friday 29 February 7.30pm
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA.
Richard Hickox (conductor), Blodwen Harty (soprano), Alastair Harty (tenor), Robert Tear (bass), John Gillingham (bass), Alastair Harty (tenor), Robert Tear (bass), John Gillingham (bass).

Saturday 1 March 8.00pm
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA.
Richard Hickox (conductor), Blodwen Harty (soprano), Alastair Harty (tenor), Robert Tear (bass), John Gillingham (bass), Alastair Harty (tenor), Robert Tear (bass), John Gillingham (bass).

Wigmore Hall

Tuesday 19 February 7.30pm
MELOS QUARTET OF STUTTGART.
Wigmore Master Concerts.

Wednesday 20 February 7.30pm
THE CONSORT OF MUSICIANS.
Concerto for harpsichord and violin, both solo and for two players at one harpsichord, by Johann Sebastian Bach.

Thursday 21 February 7.30pm
CHRISTOPHE COHN.
Sonata for harpsichord and violin, both solo and for two players at one harpsichord, by Johann Sebastian Bach.

Friday 22 February 7.30pm
PETER KATIN.
Sonata for harpsichord and violin, both solo and for two players at one harpsichord, by Johann Sebastian Bach.

Saturday 23 February 7.30pm
DAVID MASON.
Sonata for harpsichord and violin, both solo and for two players at one harpsichord, by Johann Sebastian Bach.

Sunday 24 February 7.30pm
TUNING NETWORK.
Sonata for harpsichord and violin, both solo and for two players at one harpsichord, by Johann Sebastian Bach.

Monday 25 February 7.30pm
Helen Jenkins.
Sonata for harpsichord and violin, both solo and for two players at one harpsichord, by Johann Sebastian Bach.

Tuesday 26 February 7.30pm
HARRY DOUGLAS.
Sonata for harpsichord and violin, both solo and for two players at one harpsichord, by Johann Sebastian Bach.

Wednesday 27 February 7.30pm
INGOER COOPER.
Sonata for harpsichord and violin, both solo and for two players at one harpsichord, by Johann Sebastian Bach.

Thursday 28 February 7.30pm
MAGGIE COLE.
Sonata for harpsichord and violin, both solo and for two players at one harpsichord, by Johann Sebastian Bach.

Friday 29 February 7.30pm
BERNARD DEMIERE.
Sonata for harpsichord and violin, both solo and for two players at one harpsichord, by Johann Sebastian Bach.

Saturday 1 March 7.30pm
YAROSLAV STRONG.
Sonata for harpsichord and violin, both solo and for two players at one harpsichord, by Johann Sebastian Bach.

Sunday 2 March 7.30pm
ANTHONY RALPH.
Sonata for harpsichord and violin, both solo and for two players at one harpsichord, by Johann Sebastian Bach.

Monday 3 March 7.30pm
JOHN JOHNSON.
Sonata for harpsichord and violin, both solo and for two players at one harpsichord, by Johann Sebastian Bach.

Tuesday 4 March 7.30pm
GEORGE MALCOLM.
Sonata for harpsichord and violin, both solo and for two players at one harpsichord, by Johann Sebastian Bach.

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ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA.
Richard Hickox (conductor), Blodwen Harty (soprano), Alastair Harty (tenor), Robert Tear (bass), John Gillingham (bass), Alastair Harty (tenor), Robert Tear (bass), John Gillingham (bass).

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL
BORDOIN STRING QUARTET.
Bordoin Quartet (conductor), Blodwen Harty (soprano), Alastair Harty (tenor), Robert Tear (bass), John Gillingham (bass), Alastair Harty (tenor), Robert Tear (bass), John Gillingham (bass).

PURCELL ROOM
DAVID WARD.
Sonata for harpsichord and violin, both solo and for two players at one harpsichord, by Johann Sebastian Bach.

GLC Working for the Arts in London

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
MONDAY NEXT, FEBRUARY 18 at 7.30 pm
Van Waelman Management presents
AMSTERDAM
PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
Conductor: VERNON HANDLEY
Cellist: MORAY WELSH
WAGNER: Overture, Die Meistersinger
DVOŘAK: Cello Concerto
RACHMANINOV: Symphonic Dances
Sponsored by AMSTERDAM-ROTTERDAM BRANCH
£2.50, £3.50, £5.00, £7.50, £10.00, £12.50, £15.00, £17.50, £20.00, £22.50, £25.00, £27.50, £30.00, £32.50, £35.00, £37.50, £40.00, £42.50, £45.00, £47.50, £50.00, £52.50, £55.00, £57.50, £60.00, £62.50, £65.00, £67.50, £70.00, £72.50, £75.00, £77.50, £80.00, £82.50, £85.00, £87.50, £90.00, £92.50, £95.00, £97.50, £100.00, £102.50, £105.00, £107.50, £110.00, £112.50, £115.00, £117.50, £120.00, £122.50, £125.00, £127.50, £130.00, £132.50, £135.00, £137.50, £140.00, £142.50, £145.00, £147.50, £150.00, £152.50, £155.00, £157.50, £160.00, £162.50, £165.00, £167.50, £170.00, £172.50, £175.00, £177.50, £180.00, £182.50, £185.00, £187.50, £190.00, £192.50, £195.00, £197.50, £200.00, £202.50, £205.00, £207.50, £210.00, £212.50, £215.00, £217.50, £220.00, £222.50, £225.00, £227.50, £230.00, £232.50, £235.00, £237.50, £240.00, £242.50, £245.00, £247.50, £250.00, £252.50, £255.00, £257.50, £260.00, £262.50, £265.00, £267.50, £270.00, £272.50, £275.00, £277.50, £280.00, £282.50, £285.00, £287.50, 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Augsburg: the municipal theatre and the Church of the Holy Cross

John Ardagh on the bimillennial celebrations of the city of Diesel, Messerschmidt, Brecht — and the Fuggerei

Augustan time for Augsburg

BERT BRECHT, a native of Augsburg the capital of the Swabian part of Bavaria called it *Scheissstadt*, finding it too bourgeois. Before his day, too, in the 18th century, it was a key centre of finance, one of Europe's richest and most influential towns. And now, in 1985, its jubilee year, its stolid Swabian citizens are celebrating with un-Swabian pomp its foundation by the Romans.

They began on January 9 with the formal re-opening of the Golden Saal in the Rathaus, a majestic hall restored at last to something like its original Renaissance opulence (at a cost of 18m DM) after bombing by the British in 1944. The fun will go on till September, with bagpipes from twin-town Inverness, an open-air Aida with live elephants, and many other events, some linked to one or other of Augsburg's various illustrious sons. Besides Brecht, they include Hans Holbein the Younger, Fugger the Rich, Rudolf Diesel, and Mozart's father.

It must have been a lovelier city before the war: today its rebuilt brown and grey facades, though careful copies, wear a severe look. But there's still a quiet charm in the old quarter below the big white Gothic Dom, where the narrow streets, full of clerical institutes and girls' convent schools, have the air of some English cathedral town.

Less English are the classical fountains in the broad

Maximilianstrasse and the tall onion-dome towers everywhere, so very South German: two blue ones adorn Elias Holl's massive square-fronted Rathaus, an extraordinary piece of Renaissance monumentalism. The statue (1594) in front of it is of Augustus, whose family founded the city (hence its name). But you will look in vain in Augsburg for true Roman remains, such as you find in Trier. Their buildings were long ago plundered for their stone.

Augsburg's later golden age was due largely to Jacob Fugger "the Rich" (1459-1525), greatest German merchant of his day, king of the copper and silver trade and "five times as rich as the Medici," so it is said. He ran the Fugger Mint in Rome, financed Charles V's election as Emperor, and provided Augsburg with its fine buildings.

He was also a devout philanthropist, who built one of Europe's first social-welfare settlements: the amazing Fuggerei, still in use today and much the most intriguing spot in Augsburg. It is a walled enclosure of some 60 little three-storey ochre houses: their neat design, with stairways and kitchens, must have been ultra-modern in 1519 and puts to shame a great deal of Victorian housing in Britain.

Here Fugger housed virtually free some of the city's poor with their teeming families. Today some 300 elderly

or widowed people live here, behind outer gates still locked each night at 10 pm. They still pay the original 1.72-mark nominal annual rent; their only obligation is to be good Catholics and "pray for the souls of the founders." The Fugger family still run the settlement; also still own a bank in the city and live in a Schloss just outside.

Three of the family lie buried in the lovely Fugger funeral chapel in St Anne's — a Protestant church that three times a year holds a Catholic Mass for the Fuggerei, as it has since the 16th century. This anomaly sheds light on another key feature of Augsburg: its long oecumenical tradition. Luther had strong links with the city: here in 1518 he defended his reform plans. Then in 1648 local Catholic and Lutherans agreed on full parity and harmony: as a result, two Lutheran churches were built against the wishes of existing

Catholic ones — and these unusual double-churches, St Ulric's and the Holy Cross, are still used as such today. It has taken the rest of Germany three centuries to catch up with such oecumenical intimacy.

The ornate St Anne's chapel, Germany's earliest Renaissance church, has a famous portrait of Luther by Cranach and — in sharp contrast — three insolent little sculptures of plump putti, naked, naughty-looking, half-asleep, and clearly taking no part in the Swabian work ethic. However, that ethic is much in evidence in the northern suburbs, at the MAN factory where in 1897 Diesel invented his engine: the factory's small museum contains the prototype.

Augsburg has played a remarkable role in modern transport. The world's first balloon flight in the stratosphere was made here. The

first jets were built and flown here — the work of Willi Messerschmidt, who had factories here. But he was condemned at the Nuremberg Trials, so Augsburgers are none too proud of him (the airstrip for his jets is now a university site).

The citizens are happier to lay claim to the Mozart family: the composer was born in Salzburg, but his great-grandfather lived in the Fuggerei, and his father was born in a little red house now the Mozart museum. Mozart is a common Augsburg name even today.

Like Messerschmidt, the Nazi Brecht the Marxist arouses mixed feelings locally. He was born and brought up here, son of a paper-factory owner. He remained proud of being Swabian and fond of Augsburg in a way, though also sharply critical. This was mutual. For

decades, Augsburg ignored and outlawed its most famous modern son. And only this month has his birthplace, an ugly house by a swirling brown stream near the Rathaus, been opened as a modest Brecht museum. Some of his plays were staged in the town last week as part of the jubilee, but very much on its fringe. It's clear that Augsburg's ecumenical tolerance hardly extends to this Leftist who, in turn, saw Fugger's capitalist charity as an insult to the working class. Scheiss, in fact.

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PACKAGES: DER Travel Service (01-486 4593). Romantic Heart of Germany tour by air-coach-rail, 10 nights B & B from £240, 14 nights from £215. Tourist rail cards are available for unaccompanied travel in West Germany from £106 for four days, £134 for nine days, and £159 for 16 days. Hotel accommodation in Augsburg, booked through DER from £10 B & B. Holidays from £22 for a large room to accommodate up to four people.

David Newman's European Collection (0903-754818) will arrange Holiday Inn accommodation in Augsburg, and special price travel arrangements for self-drive tourists who intend to stay abroad for at least five nights.

Augsburg Jubilee Events: Exhibition, March - October, "Augsburg and its City Hall, 19 April - 6 October. Regional Horticultural Exhibition, 25 May - 29 September, "The Romans in Swabia." Festivities, 9 June, Folkloric Costume Parade, 21 - 30 June. Official week of celebrations, July, month of twin towns from Japan, USA, Scotland (Inverness) and France. Theatre Events, 12 - 19 May. A week of Mozart, 30 June - 28 July "Asda."

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Alex Hamilton goes to a bullfight ... Mortal trials

I MAY as well begin with the bullfight, because I have been driving with the horses that Portuguese bullfighters were gentle affairs, akin to drag hunts, and what actually happened was to me all very surprising.

It took place at Montijo, some 30 km from Lisbon across the Tagus into Estremadura, and I reached it in a Cityrama bus, from the Avenida da Liberdade. We first went for pick-ups in almost any hotels as the bus had seats, and were in sum a cosmopolitan cross-section of tourists. The highly efficient guide addressed us in Portuguese, Spanish, French, German and English and was barely audible in all of them.

This was torture for those unable to understand any and exasperating for those who understood all of them, and I was so busy thinking how awful it must be to be a guide, even if, as in Portugal, you have taken a four-year course to qualify that when we pulled up in darkness at the arena I had all but forgotten that it was for a bullfight that I had paid my £12.

It seemed for a time, indeed, as if there might not be one. Nothing was prompt but the rain, which began on the stroke of ten, and returned intermittently to freshen each bull. At first the crowd rose like a flock of birds from its stepped stone seating and made for cover at the back, but thereafter became resigned to the showers.

The brass band, under cover, was equally hesitant, periodically playing three encouraging bars and then stopping. The lights went up, and were extinguished, went up, and left us in darkness again.

In the intervals of illumination one perceived a gradual accumulation of *corrida* personnel behind the five-foot scarlet barrier at the perimeter: doctors, stockmen, sand men and the *forca* who play the climactic role. All about was a mounting exchange of civilities, recognition of persons of distinction, the passage of the police with a small boy dressed in a mascot at a football match, and the selling of cakes and ale, nuts and go and, if one were lucky, hire of cushions.

Nor did the opening action, when at last it came, involve any bracing moments. It was a bull that learned quickly. As soon as he had a couple of *banderillas* planted in his shoulders he decided to attack again, and wandered off to the barrier at the point where he'd made his entry and looked wistfully out over the top. This belied the sequel and the five following bulls who were progressively more dangerous.

The first stage of a Portuguese bullfight is broadly similar to the Spanish, in the sense that the bull is angered and tormented by a series of wounds, but here the *cofrero* is the magnificent figure, applauded for his style and horsemanship, and for the symmetry of his set of *banderillas*. He hadn't anticipated so much blood and nor apparently had my neighbours, whose ranks were thinned by fainting and nausea. The good traveller is heartless, wrote Elias Canetti. Discuss.

The second stage has a different character. You feel all it is because of what may happen to the *forca*, and often does. Until now they've just been watching, like you and me, and perhaps not enjoying all of it either. They work as a team, on foot, dressed in khaki, without so much as a coloured handkerchief to defend themselves. They face a bull who is hurt, but not badly, who is going to live but who believes he is going to have to kill all the *forca* in sight to be sure of doing so.

The bull is persuaded to face in from the barrier and is left alone. The dozens of *forca* on the far side rapidly funnel into a radial line, with an elected front man. He goes forward, stamping and strutting and shouting cocky challenges, and when the bull charges he takes the brunt, grasping his horns and tugging on the animal crashes on with him into his supporters. The line thus folds like a concertina, bringing the bull to a stop. With one of them twisting the beast's tail motionless in the middle of the swarm, the symbolic kill has been made. A number of tame-bellied cattle trundle into the arena, absorb the fighting bull, and bear him off.

They all looked small, and the front men seemed to be the shortest of all. The support patterns varied; as the programme went on they were scattered more, and more often by their bull before quelling him, but all



Homage to Henry the Navigator on the banks of the Tagus — picture by Alex Hamilton

the wars of attrition came to the same ritual end until the sixth bull.

The bull was moving too fast; the front man took the impact correctly but he should have let him go by. It was obviously what his team mates expected, because they had already begun to peel off.

The line wavered and broke. The bull traversed half the arena at speed and crashed the *forca* against the barrier. The stricken boy somehow hauled himself over the barrier but fell inert on the other side. Rag doll ... stretcher ... ambulance ... all that.

The next day I tried to find out if he'd survived. No knowledge anywhere, and no mention of the event, even as a *corrida* in the local press. It was only a provincial evening. I was told, and accidents of that kind happen all the time. Not a story for a newspaper.

... and dreams of a life of discovery in Lisbon Immortal potions

PORTUGAL lacks a Perez Galdos, the Spanish novelist who moved in from the Canaries to chronicle the critical times in his country's history in 46 novels — the *Episodios Nacionales*. What a terrific challenge it would be to make a parallel for Portugal. And how beguiling to live in Lisbon — cheap enough even for a writer — while doing it. The thought is provoked by all those intriguing figures sculpted on the monument to the explorers on the bank of the Tagus.

I'd go straight for the throat of the matter, ignoring Abraham's grandson (3259 BC) and roughly 4,500 years of Roman and Moorish overrunning, and pick up modern times from Henry the Navigator around AD1400 — John of Gaunt's grandson and the bellows that blew the first wave of Portuguese sailors over the port-dark sea to Africa.

The "Discovery" tetralogy would come to a pulse-stirring climax with three acts, the greatest captain, Bartolomeu Diaz ("Cape of Storms"), Vasco da Gama ("Indian Landfall"), and Pedro Alvarez Cabral ("God First Gave Us Brazil").

But there is a joker in the pack at the same time. Cristobal Colon, whose westward initiative was turned down by the Portuguese king in favour of more certain spice routes, and this suggests a running theme for the whole shelf: that it is a trait in the Portuguese character to miss what is under their noses.

This is the end of an heroic age, not a beginning, and with every chance of being the commercial centre of the world, Lisbon lost its position to Antwerp, which had no sailors to speak of, certainly none to strike sparks in a blurb.

The adventurers, like generations of sardine fishermen mourned in the *fado*, did not always come home up the Tagus (it would take me some time to get used to the plaintive *fado*, but no time at all to like the Alfama district where they are to be heard all the time). But when they did, the neat little Belem tower in the river, which only makes a pretence at fortification, was said to be their Greenwich.

This, and that monument to Henry and the others (see picture), would be the inspirational marks, plus of course some visits to the nearby Maritime Museum. There's no a tremendous amount to be learned in it, except about

ship design from the numerous models of all kinds of craft from Greek biremes to modern liners, but the old maps are rather exciting. There should be more of this: Henry's navigational science deserves a major display, with an animated comparable with John Eddon's performance at the London Planetarium.

The publishers would be looking forward to the earth-quake tidal wave of 20,000 dead, judgment from on high? — and Pombal's rebuilding of Lisbon on the grid system we enjoy today. But they'd have to be patient: some backtracking had been done to take in King Manoel and the opulent creations of the Manueline style, and also the picturesque career of the national poetic genius, Luis de Camoens.

When I said that Lisbon is cheap enough even for a writer, I should add that Camoens is the exception that proves the rule. For all the acclaim given to his masterpiece, *Os Lusitadas*, he lived his last years in penury and went to a pauper's grave. It's unlikely that his tomb in the Cathedral actually contains his bones. But what little is known of him is pure root: frustrated in love, exiled, lost an eye in battle, gaol for street violence, at odds with authority both at home and abroad, shipwrecked, nothing salvaged but his poems.

He was in Macau, and Goa, each worth a book in themselves, not to mention the Angolan and Bahia ends of the slave trade later on. And we haven't even touched on 60 years of Spanish rule. Inquisition, autos da fe, Napoleon's fatal error in leaving the Portuguese war to his marshals, the loss of Brazil, the strange life of the royal dynasties, eccentric English visitors like Southey and William Beckford, and a lovely tangle of the Spanish poet Espronceda, who fell in love and all sorts of trouble while embroiled in attempts to follow the doctrines of his hero, Byron, and liberate the country.

But heroes are not enough. Novels, like planes, need a hundred secondary characters to make for every one they keep aloft. How to mill about among the stuff, and get the feel of life? Of course I'd haunt the ancient Alfama, perhaps try to live there, though there seems to be little left of the way of penseros for strangers.

And while it lasts I'd hang about the edge of the river where the orange ferries cross to Cacilhas, where the busy fish restaurants are, and on that side hitch up on the bars of the huge gloomy caves where middle-aged sailors from the giant freighters while away the hours with the waterfront girls.

This would be a matter of urgency, because plans are afoot to clean up the waterfront at the interests of tourism, and set up cultural sports and pleasure domes from the Padrao dos Descobrimentos to the central Praça do Comercio, around which in large government buildings the best brains of the country are said to doze.

But do they, in the unhurried pace of Lisbon life, always miss the great chances under their noses? One classic modern coup at least says no. They gave asylum, as it were, to the art collection of aristocrat Gulbenkian by offering it entry tax free and a guarantee of perpetuity. So he bequeathed it to Lisbon, and the Gulbenkian Museum in the northern section is one of the essentials of any visit.

And perhaps I would try to get a line on the buzz topics from the gossip of the egg-heads where they take their *bico* of coffee at the Belas Artes, and frequent the Mamebe quarter to attend the daily meetings of special interest and pressure groups. When the royalists came in it would be time to sit under the panoramas of *azulejos* of the Casa dos Pasteles de Belem, and take a *bico* with one of the little custard-filled cinema-movie cakes that have been made there since 1837, the only place to keep its licence to make sweet cakes during the war. A great trying spot for spices, no doubt, if you can imagine Sidney Greenstreet in the Bogart role.

But as there's many a hiccup between the royalty and the author, it might more often be a case of *sopa alentejana* (30p) in a third-category restaurant like Ao Balao, where the bread and fragments of eggs floating in it, it looks evil, but actually tastes of nothing until you suddenly bite on a large chunk of disguised garlic. A chunk of soured-in-the-hole is another test for the pauper gourmet eating typical food. But really with little more than a pittance you live quite well in Lisbon. Besides, it's all grist until your arse comes up the Tagus.

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WEEK-END PEOPLE

Shaman of the moment

AFTER two minutes Donald Sutherland inspected his wrist-watches, but I'd started so I'd finish. The proposition was this. A new book, whose author is interviewed below, suggests that showbusiness has become the real religion of our times, that entertainers are fulfilling the role of ancient shamans and medicine men, swaying and healing the multitudes.

A rummage through Sutherland's cuttings had revealed a man who, in another era, would have been a natural candidate for jampi-jampi and hocus pocus. In the classic pattern of shamanism, his childhood in Canada was blighted by illness, including polio, rheumatic fever and hepatitis. Confined to bed, he began to study magic and to make puppets — the spirit dolls of the shaman's profession.

The charismatic power he exercised over audiences was at odds with his appearance. He had the poise of a falling chimney stack and the visage of Ben Gunn. The Prince of Wales ears did not help. His London drama school believed he had the prospects of a truck-driver, albeit a well articulated one. His eyes dominated. In 1953 they were voted among the most distinctive in the US by the American Ophthalmological Association. Fellini compared them to those of a new-born baby.

The conclusive proof of this hypothesis came when he "died" from spinal meningitis in 1970, during the making of Kelly's Heroes in Yugoslavia. He told the New York Times that he felt he

was floating above his body, surrounded by a soft blue light. His doctors were astounded by his recovery. Death and resurrection are central to shamanism, re-enacted in modern times by saving people in half and feats of escapology. To tribal people the phenomena represents the gaining of wisdom in the Underworld, guaranteeing the shaman a respectful audience.

In the early 1970s Sutherland embarked with his girlfriend, Jane Fonda, on a crusade to stop the Vietnam War and preach the new religion of socialism. Their audiences, rocking to jungle rhythms and rolling to hallucinogenic substances, welcomed them as gods.

Sutherland inspected his wrist again. He was not, I noticed, wearing a watch. "You're making my skin crawl," he said. "The play that I've finished reading is about just that. Actually it's about a spiritualist who looks on his work as giving peace to people."

John Lennon had been struck by the rows of people in wheelchairs who expected to be cured at Beatles concerts. Was he conscious of that degree of veneration? "Oh God, yes," he muttered. "When Ordinary People was released, the number of people who would come up just to hold your hand. They didn't want to shake your hand, just hold it. Then they would say 'Thank you' and go away. In a sense I feel truly like an elder. It gives you back a lot as a performer."

Sutherland, who is 49, was in London this week for the



SUTHERLAND: the eyes have it. Picture E. Hamilton-West

release of the Agatha Christie film *Ordinary People*, in which he plays a paleontologist rubbing away at an old murder. Although the movie is a refreshing departure from the hackneyed genre, one is reminded of Derek Malcolm's remark about John Gielgud: upon finding himself in an unsavoury film he squints furiously to signal he's not really there. Did Sutherland ever feel like that? "Yes, a lot," he guffawed. "It's the ostrich syndrome. But what can you do? You're stuck in it and it's

your face that's going to be up there. My only job is to agree in being cast, and sometimes I'm a little careless in that. It's hard though. It's very romantic, the idea of making a film. "I got caught a lot. I got caught by Chabrol once. He caught me. I was supposed to do a film with him and he pulled the rug out from under it because he wasn't ready. I ended up doing another film with him. I really felt that he could do, but Claude just told funny jokes and read MacDonal hamburger

do everything but cry on camera. They shot 55 takes and the director, in a fit of anger, said 'Oh fuck it and slammed off stage. At which point the actor did start to cry and ran after him and said 'I'm terribly sorry, it's all my fault'. The director replied 'Nonsense, it's my fault. I hired you.' The real magic, he believes, is down to the director. "Altman, for example, in *MASH*. He took that film and went into the cutting room and moved it all round the place. I looked at it and thought 'This is ridiculous'.

Dead and alive

IF John Lennon or Jimmy Hendrix had been dropped into a tribal society they would have been instantly recognised as having shamanistic qualities, says Rogan Taylor. In fact in the 1830s a destitute named Gay, possessing only his Harlequin costume, landed on his feet among a band of Red Indians and performed his gender-bending rituals for a year. He ended up as a cosmologist in Liverpool.

Showbiz wears a disguise, Taylor claims in *The Death and Resurrection Show*, published next week. Although popular entertainment consists almost entirely of acts which have exact parallels in the traditional performance of shamans, the code has been lost. Producing a live rabbit from a hat is meaningless unless the rabbit's bones are seen to be resurrected.

It was only in the Sixties, he believes, that showbiz stood revealed for what it had always secretly been: ecstatic religion in performance.

Taylor (40) is in the final phase of doctoral research in psychology and religion at Lancaster University. A late starter, he had roamed the world for 10 years, including



TAYLOR. Picture Kenneth Saunders

two years crossing Assam on horseback (the horse died). A few years ago he announced that Father Christmas was of Siberian origin, stemming from real reindeer predilection for human urine spiked with the hallucinogen fly-algeric. Hence flying reindeer.

He charts the rise of showbiz from the outcast showpeople who left the crumbling Roman Empire to encounter the shamanistic tribes of Northern Europe. The next breakthrough coincided with the decline of the Church in the 17th century, when pantomime flowered.

The great religions focused more and more on the upper world but people knew that the keys to real knowledge were in the underworld, he said. "If you substitute sickness for sin in Christianity you could say that all the great religions are simply therapies for getting better. They all had a go at transforming water into wine: they couldn't resist it."

Stars who picked up people's spirits acquired quasi-religious status, he asserts. Some had strong shamanistic traits. "Houdini spent 30 years sitting on the graves of dead magicians, waiting for the real secret to emerge. It was like some North American Indian puberty ritual, sitting on the graves of medicine men."

John Lennon was the ecstatic voyager who says "Let me take you down" in Strawberry Fields. McCartney was the shaman's assistant, the anchorman. In a combination like *We Can Work It Out* suddenly Lennon comes in with "Life is very short and there's no time..."

The Death and Resurrection Show is published on Thursday by Blond, £15.

Why Michael Wood's series is far from Homer and dry

ONE OF the shaman's most crucial roles is as chronicler of tribal history. In this Michael Wood (30) has been more successful than most. During his TV series on the Anglo-Saxons, the Beeb informed me, he "turned on thousands of housewives to history."

From Sunday week he presents a six-part BBC-2 series, *In Search Of The Trojan War*, an archaeological detective story which will bear the name of the Trojan War, the foundations of the face that launched 1,000 ships.

The ultimate nemesis among the Teutonic Senoi tribe in Malaysia was to drop from a branch on to a sharpened bamboo stake. Similar thoughts were entertained by Wood when he read a headline at the weekend suggesting that the Trojan War had been proved to be a historical reality. He could see two years' work rushing into the Aegean.

"I had a fit," he said, he claims that the article was based on a throw-away remark by a Trojan scholar and contains inaccuracies. However Wood is not out of the great yet. Hittite archives, lodged in Germany, have recently been acknowledged to contain Greek records which may spring surprises.

There is also the possibility that a hoard of gold, excavated from what is believed to be the site of Troy, may resurface. It was discovered by the father of archaeology, Heinrich Schliemann, in the Turkish mound of Hisarlik. The gold vanished from Germany during the second world war.

"The belief is that it's in the Soviet Union," said Wood. "But the rumour I heard is that the treasure is on the reparations list that the East is demanding of the West. There are people in West Berlin who have hopes

they can get it back. My deduction is that it exists in a private collection in the West."

He concedes that similar myths precede the supposed date of the Trojan War in 1200-1300 BC. The Iliad describes weapons of an older vintage, and the past-time of sacking cities to capture women was endemic.

He had not heard the Pygmy theory. According to Jean-Pierre Hallet, the Iliad contains the first European mention of the people called Oï Pygmaioi. In Pygmy legend, perhaps the oldest in the world, their home near the source of the Nile was struck by a cataclysm. When the Trojan War ended, thunder and lightning rained down on the city, followed by earthquakes and deluge.

The Pygmies have been overlooked again. Someone should start digging in Zaire.



MICHAEL WOOD. Picture Frank Martin

What Penny owes to Milpurrurr the medicine man

WHEN Penny Tweedie's three-year-old son developed a critical fever in 1979 she turned to the only help available. As she was staying with a clan of Aborigines in the sparsely populated tract of northern Australia's Arnhem Land, the nearest expertise resided in her host, a medicine man named Milpurrurr.

She had had to overcome

Milpurrurr's initial hostility in her quest to photograph Aboriginal people, the results of which can be seen in her exhibition at the Photographers Gallery in Great Newport Street until March 2.

"He was a very powerful, much feared warrior and medicine man," she said. "I had seen him healing his rival, an elder from another

clan, which said a lot about his power. Ben had this terrible fever for three days. He was delicious when Milpurrurr arrived in the tent."

"He very slowly started massaging Ben, dragging the heat out of him. Ben didn't move. Then he made loud snoring sounds. He kept putting the tips of his fingers into a bowl of water

and placing them on Ben's hair. The noise made Ben wake up. Ben looked eyes with him as he continued this deliberate massage."

"He told Ben to get up and said to us, 'I have taken the fever away. It will come back in the night but by tomorrow it will be gone.' Ben jumped up and joined the other kids as if nothing had been wrong with him. It

was extraordinary. Milpurrurr was physically exhausted: sweat was pouring off him. It never occurred to me that that was not the correct thing to do."

People is written by Stuart Wavell

PENNY TWEEDIE: a healing in the Outback. Picture Martin Argles



Falling under the spell

IF shamanism is running amok on this page, there is a reason. It had once seemed like a career option. I had two good qualifications: I was struck by lightning at the age of eight, and after an alarming episode in a cave I began to dream of tigers. These, I knew, were potent portents among the camping and jungle-dwelling communities in Malaysia, where I then lived. It was in a Malay fishing

village, in 1978, that I met John Paul Davidson, a young student engaged in a two-year thesis on Malay shamans, or shamans. Davidson rapidly became a BBC-2 producer of note, sending back the first documentary on the Boat People of Bidong Island and producing a stream of World About 25 programmes which meticulously peeled layers from previously impenetrable subjects, notably *Opium — The Deadly Harvest*.

His latest is the illuminating *Everyman* series on the way Buddhism has coped with the imposition of Western doctrines in two neighbouring countries — capitalism in Thailand and Marxism in Laos.

For tomorrow's concluding episode he pulled off the first visit to Laos by a Western film crew in recent years. Under the Kissinger doctrine the country received more American bombs than the combined theatres of the second world war, and now entertains 50,000 Vietnamese "advisers."

Back in 1978 Davidson took me to meet a local bono. Accepting our cream crackers, the normal consultation fee, the bono explained that many of his patients were women seeking to ensure their men's fidelity, divorce being particularly traumatic for Malay wives.

Davidson frequently assisted bonos during ceremonies, his passport a precious book of spells recorded by a British civil servant and since fallen into disuse. He was persuaded that he was himself the victim of a local girl's love spell. Perversely, the exorcism involved large quantities of cold water being thrown over him.

Last year, when his father was dying, he took out the book again. "I began invoking the spirits. I had kept telling the surgeon that there's another element you need to go into an operation, the will to live — what the Malays call *semangat*. I felt I had failed to get him through it."

BIRTHDAYS

TODAY: Actors: Peter Adamson, 55, and Ian Laverder, 39; Anthony Dowell, ballet dancer, 42; Sir Geraint Evans, baritone, 63; Lord Franks, OM, 80; Elhanan Hahel, conductor, 49; John McEneaney, tennis player, 28; John Schlesinger, director, 59; Sir Ellis Waterhouse, art historian, 80.

TOMORROW: Actors: Alan Bates, 51, Prunella Gee, 35, Barry Humphries, 51, and Julia McKenzie, 43; John Allegro, author, 82; Marian Anderson, contralto, 83; Yasser Arafat, PLO chairman, 56; Alden Whitman, (Tom) Claxson, president, World Bank, 82; Lord Foot, 78; Lord Kearton, 74; Freda Kelly, principal, St Anne's College, Oxford, 54; Gene Pitney, singer, songwriter, 42; Steve Suttan, rugby footballer, 47; Eileasaid Trevor, (alias Simon Ratray, Adam Hall, Warwick Scott, etc), actor, 65.

MONDAY: Actors: Phyllis Calvert, 68, Sinead Cusack, 37, Graeme Garden, 42, Jack Baker, 60, and John Travolta, 31; Helen Garley Brown, editor-in-chief, *Cosmopolitan*, 63; Jean E. Cooke, painter, 85; Haw Davies, rugby footballer, 26; Len Deighton, writer, 56; Miles Forman, film director, 55; Sir Eric Gaby, former

prime minister, Grenada, 63; Pm Leith, cook, 45; Foke One Lennon, widow of John, 51; William McKane, professor of Hebrew and oriental languages, St Andrews, 64; Ned Sherrin, broadcaster, theatre man, 54.

TUESDAY: Prince Andrew, 25; the Rt Rev Ross Hook, chief-of-staff to the Archbishop of Canterbury, 68; Hana Mandlikova, tennis player, 23; Lee Marvin, actor, 61; Bernard Meadows, sculptor, 70; Erin Fitzzy, campaigner for battered wives, 48.

WEDNESDAY: Robert Altman, film director, 60; Forbes Burnham, president, Guyana, 62; Enzo Ferrari, car designer, 87; Charlie Gillett, rock author, 43; Jimmy Greaves, former international footballer, 45; Cecil Harmsworth King, former *Mirror* mandarin, 84; Sidney Poitier, actor, director, 58.

THURSDAY: Actors: Peter McKenry, 45, Madeleine Renaud, 62, David Wood (also children's playwright), 41, and Jenny Lee-Wright, 38; Jilly Cooper, writer, 48; Robert Marabe, prime minister, Zimbabwe, 61; Andres Segovia, guitarist, 92; Nina Simone, soul singer, 51.

FRIDAY: Duchess of Kent, 62; actors: Sheila Hancock, 52, Sir John Mills, 77, and Kenneth Williams, 59; Bruce Forsyth, comedian, 57; Senator Edward Kennedy, 53;

Manchester Guardian 1935

FEBRUARY 18: The Royal Court Theatre is to open on March 5 with cheap seats, a free car park, and a new policy. Mr Howison Cuff intends to present new plays and "rivalries of plays that, in my opinion, cry out for revival," and the run of each play to be limited to two weeks — a curious development for the theatre in which *The Farmer's Wife* ran for 1,329 performances.

FEBRUARY 19: Vivid red posters pasted on the public

hoardings in Berlin proclaimed the grim news that two women, one of them bearing a name famous in German history, had been beheaded after having been found guilty by the People's Tribunal of the betrayal of military secrets. They were Frau Bertha von Falkenhayn (otherwise Baroness von Berg) and Frau Renate von Natzer. The method of execution is in accordance with the criminal law of Prussia.

The women were alleged to have aided from the German War Office plans for an invasion of Poland.

that so distinguished a figure in our national life as Mr Nevins should only now be getting his first honorary degree and that it should not have come from his own university (Oxford) but from Dublin.

FEBRUARY 21: A.P. Wadsworth, Labour Correspondent, who was to become Editor, reviewing a book entitled *Are Trade Unions Obstructive?*: Few books can have been issued with so imposing an array of editors or with so commendable an aim. The editors felt that "no one knew the facts" about the charges of "obstruction and worse" that are made against trade unions, or about the counter-charges that employers "were as bad as, or worse

than, the trade union leaders — lacking the vision either to recognise the portents of social and economic change or to admit the workers to any effective share in the real control of industry."

... Their general summing up is reassuring. The restrictive effects of trade unionism are far less great than is popularly supposed. There are bad patches. Thus the editors criticise the fancy rates of wages created at the docks and by London printers, but they admit that it is largely the employers' own fault — "It is a thankless business to side with an employer who has not the courage to side with himself."

FEBRUARY 22: Mr Baldwin, speaking in Chelsea, said: "I have lived a great

deal of my life with working men, and I should not be the least afraid in England of any working man. What I am afraid of is a government in England of the so-called intellectuals who push over on the working men theories not of British extraction, theories that have never worked anywhere, put forward by men who have never managed so much as a wheel stall, men who would never get into Parliament, except the backs of the trade unions, and what I can never make out about the real Labour element in the Labour Party is how it can allow itself to be sufficed with the kind of policy that the so-called intellectuals are trying to force down their throats."



BALDWIN: A Labour Party stuffed with intellectuals and theoreticians

Will Reagan put up the shutters?

Countries around the world constantly imploring the United States to do something about its burgeoning Budget and trade deficits must be beginning to wish they had kept their mouths shut. The American Administration is now seriously considering one simple measure which — it is argued — would cure both problems simultaneously. A 20 per cent surcharge on all imports entering the US. Such a drastic move has long been campaigned for by maverick industrialists and farmers; but few expected it to be given house room by senior Republican senators, and within the cabinet itself. After all, the US, though by no means immune from creeping protectionism, is trying forcefully to reduce trade barriers in the rest of the world and is so orientated to free markets that it is still desisting from intervening on the foreign exchange markets to curb the dizzy rise of the dollar.

But the superficial attractions of a 20 per cent import surcharge should not blind the US to the disastrous consequences that might ensue. True, it would provide instant income to reduce the country's \$220 billion Budget deficit and would reduce the \$120 billion trade deficit by keeping out imports, particularly from Japan. But it could trigger off a retaliatory trade war in which the main trading nations vied with each other to impose similar tariffs. And it could prove catastrophic for developing nations like Brazil which rely on the US as the most important export market where dollars can be earned to pay ever escalating interest rates on their dollar-denominated debts. On Thursday, remember, it emerged that the International Monetary Fund had cut off its loans to Brazil because the country failed to meet the IMF's stringent economic targets.

Countries like Brazil would only benefit from a US import surcharge if the American deficit came down so quickly that interest rates dropped sharply enough to overcompensate for the cost of the surcharge. But in the perverse world of US deficit economics, it is just as easy to draw up a scenario in which a lower Budget deficit (induced by the 20 per cent surcharge) would prompt the Federal Reserve Bank to abandon its present mildly permissive monetary policy (which it is somewhat reluctantly pursuing) in favour of a tighter money policy which would push interest rates up.

This fatal combination of 20 per cent import surcharge with still high interest rates would give the rest of the world all the liabilities of the US deficit without the compensating advantage of cheap access to the internal American market. The most likely guess must still be that the threat of a surcharge is merely a bluff to give the Reagan administration something to climb down from when it tries to open up protected markets in the rest of the world to US goods and services. (Target number one: Japan, which is at present having the best of all worlds). But the odds on something much nastier are shortening.

There are, of course, several other ways of reducing the US budget deficit — like cutting into defence spending (up 40 per cent in real terms in three years) and tax privileges. Virtuous, but politically painful ways. Mr Reagan, even so, would be ill advised to even start talking in terms of import surcharges. If the most market orientated country in the world sets an example like that it will have only itself to blame if the rest of the world replies in kind.

One Friday in August

There are a formidable number of matters to be cleared up in Monday's Ponting debate: but let us just take one. A simple matter of fact; or rather of conflicting testimony. On Friday, August 10, Mr Ponting saw two MoD police officers, then Mr Richard Hastie-Smith, Principal Establishments Officer, then the police again. At the end of the day he wrote and signed his confession. Mr Ponting said (on oath at his trial) that he had been told that if he confessed then "it would be the end of the matter." And that (according to Chief Inspector Thomas Hughes) the Prime Minister at that stage knew nothing of the affair and senior MoD officials wished to resolve it "before she found out." Anyway, Mr Ponting confessed. The police and Mr Hastie-Smith (in court) denied this account. Mr Hastie-Smith said that it had been "his personal hope," that there would be no prosecution. "It seemed perfectly possible that that might happen." On Tuesday, August 14, he saw Mr Ponting again and handed him written notification that he could after all, be prosecuted. Mr Ponting alleges that Mr Hastie-Smith then said: "This is not going as smoothly as we had hoped. Ministers are jumping up and down." Asked to confirm this in court, Mr Hastie-Smith replied: "I don't think I said that. That did not actually accord with the facts." At the end of the evidential day, however, the jury clearly had a choice who was to be believed. Mr Justice McCowan, summing up on the testimony of the MoD police, said baldly: "Isn't it obvious they are liars and tricksters, if Ponting is right?"

Well, we don't know what the jury made of this or other points: we only know their verdict. But, amongst Mrs Margaret Thatcher's voluminous correspondence this week, there is one helpful passage. The Prime Minister notes the clash of evidence (on oath) of Messrs Ponting and Hastie-Smith, and adds: "From his previous experience as Head of the Legal Secretariat at the MoD until March, 1984, Mr Ponting would have been aware that in this kind of case a decision on prosecution would not have been taken within the Ministry. It is, of course, a matter for the Law Officers." Additionally, she declares Mr Hastie-Smith gave Ponting a letter on August 14 "telling him" of the possibility of prosecution.

That second point is, of course, no point at all — for Ponting had confessed three days earlier. But what on earth are we to make of the events of the Friday? Mr Ponting knew that there was a "strong circumstantial" case against him, pre-confession. But circumstantial evidence, in such instances, is in no sense definitive. Anyway, finally, deliberately he confessed. On Mr Hastie-Smith's own evidence "it seemed perfectly possible that that might be the end of the matter." But, pause. The Principal Establishments Officer of the MoD must — even at that stage — have known (in Mrs Thatcher's own words) that "a decision would not be taken within the Ministry of Defence." Automatically, inexorably, it was not "perfectly possible" that that "would be the end of the matter." It was completely impossible.

These are deep waters. Some terrible (August 10) misunderstanding here? Well, nothing can ever be ruled out in this life. But MPs and others will have to make a judgment. If Mr Ponting told it wrong, what was his possible motivation? He signed a voluntary confession. If Mr Hastie-Smith and the MoD police got it wrong, then motivation may be extrapolated to a grave conclusion. We don't know, though: we only know there is a terrible tangle — and that it would be deeply reassuring to straighten it out.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Why the Prime Minister can't evade the blame

Sir—Mrs Thatcher's right-tous indignation with Mr Kinnock is surely more a matter of form than of substance.

Whether or not she personally gave specific instructions for the Ponting prosecution is irrelevant. Clearly she shares full responsibility for all the acts of each of her ministers unless and until she publicly repudiates them.

She should have so ordered her Government that either she was informed and consulted on any highly controversial political matter—which this obviously was—or that her already well-known wishes were followed. If she failed to do so, her Government, she is responsible for any consequences of such failure.

The Attorney-General is no exception. Lord L. J. B. Ward's classic remark, "The Law Officers of the Crown (1951), makes clear that although on most cases the Attorney exercises his independent judgment, a Cabinet could not be indifferent if he prosecuted in a highly controversial political case in a way that would embarrass its policies. And Parliament

has on occasion debated an attorney's actions. Otherwise why is he a politician and not a civil servant?

It is also plain that there would have been no prosecution had not Mr Heseltine directed or permitted that the papers be put forward for prosecution (subject to the Attorney's decision). This was plainly a prosecution brought by Mrs Thatcher's Government and, whether it was right or wrong, she cannot evade personal responsibility for it—Yours faithfully, Richard Baker, 56 Silverdale Road, Sheffield.

Sir,—What I want to know is: does Mrs Thatcher actually believe Mr Kinnock when he says that he does not believe her? Janet Evans, Milton Bryan, Woburn Sands, Bedfordshire.

Sir,—and if she doesn't, does she really believe herself? Bob Dealey, 16 Downs Road, Dunstable, Bedfordshire

Sir,—Your Leader (February 14) rightly points to

Neil Kinnock's mistake in seeking to make the Ponting issue one of Mrs Thatcher's direct involvement in the decision to prosecute.

What you do not mention is that it forms part of a consistent pattern of reaction by the Labour leadership whenever the Government is confronting a crisis: it seeks to maximise the immediate embarrassment for the Prime Minister rather than oppose the Government on the ground of a clearly articulated principle or clearly formulated alternative policy.

This pattern was established by Labour's reaction to the Argentine invasion of the Falklands which it made into an issue of Mrs Thatcher's virility (sic); and it was confirmed by its reaction to the US invasion of Grenada, which it chose to treat as a failure of Anglo-US consultation. Most recently we have seen the steering crisis treated as a misunderstanding of the money market, and now the Ponting prosecution as a question of the Prime Minister's misjudgment.

Each time Mrs Thatcher has been able to turn the attack to her own advantage,

because it has been launched on her strongest ground: her own personal competence.

The issue with this Government is not the competence of its Prime Minister, but the nature of its policies. It is because the Labour leadership repeatedly allows this elementary point to be obscured by its desire to inflict short-term political embarrassment, that it continues to prove such an ineffectual Opposition and such a source of despair to its supporters in the country.—Yours faithfully, David Beetham, 57 Grove Lane, Leeds.

Sir—John Selwyn Gummer has declared that whatever one thinks of Margaret Thatcher, everyone knows that she respects the truth; and Michael Heseltine told the Foreign Affairs Select Committee that when mistakes were made, she was quick to put the record straight. This was not my experience.

I asked her to correct a statement about the course of the Belgrano on BBC-1's Nationwide on May 24, 1983, and she refused to do so. Instead she persisted, in a

terised press conference next day in saying that many lies had been told — implying, as I know many thought, that the course 280 degrees was one of the lies.

Michael Heseltine told the foreign affairs committee that Margaret Thatcher had not been informed about the course of the Belgrano until March 1984. Margaret Thatcher informed David Owen that ministers had been told in November 1982, before the publication of the December Defence White Paper.

The controversy had been raging for months before the May 1983 Nationwide programme, and I had obtained my information from Hansard. But Margaret Thatcher claims she did not know about the change of course, and apparently did not ask her ministers for any information before the press conference, and Michael Heseltine, sitting with her, did not tell her she was in error. The mind boggles.

I have also pointed out that there was no mention of our confrontation in Carol Thatcher's book, *Diary of an Election*. As a journalist she must have known what would be newsworthy: as a

diarist she should have given a complete record.

The only explanation for not writing about it must be that she was ordered not to do so: under no circumstances must it appear in a book written by one of the Prime Minister's closest contacts.

Perhaps, because of her legal training, Margaret Thatcher does not "know" anything until she has it in writing. If this is so, it explains many of the statements that have puzzled many people over the past 23 years. Diana B. Gould, 11 Queen Elizabeth Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire.

Sir—What an outrage that a member of the Ponting jury should be revealed as a member of the Labour Party — even a Labour Councillor.

Surely this shows up the absurdity of the jury system under which all sorts of people can participate: Liberals, Social Democrats, even Tories; those with green eyes, mothers, vegetarians; and even those without unquestioning respect for old men in flowing robes and white wigs—Yours sincerely, Malcolm Wicks, Sanderstead, Surrey.

Television's propaganda extravaganza

Sir—Among the burgeoning criticism of television news coverage of the coal dispute, one point stands out: that consistent references to it as "the miners' strike" have helped to mask the reasons for it and to divert attention from the Government's role.

A clear illustration of this was given in ITN's main news on February 13. The report highlighted a growing concern at the cost of the dispute and the damage to the nation's industry. But the blame was laid firmly on the miners.

Now, according to the Government, this is where it should lie. But according to the NUM the dispute began because of the Government's attempt to curtail production and jobs, and its and the Coal Board's violation of the Plan for Coal agreement.

No such ambivalence about who started it or who is responsible was projected by ITN. We heard first on the headline that "Electricity losses £2 billion because of the miners' strike."

Later a correspondent told us: "A Seagill surcharge... is attractive to Government... who would see it as a reminder to the nation of the costs of militancy." And then again: "Another reminder of the costs of the strike... the latest industrial production figures are up just 1 per cent in 94 compared with 3 per cent in 83, and most of that it because of the miners' (ITN, 10pm, February 13).

The correspondent could just as easily have concluded that the loss in industrial production was the cost of



"tearing up the Plan for Coal" or could have said that many would regard the increase in electricity prices as a "Thatcher" or MacGregor surcharge.

It is worrying that such an openly propagandist phrase as "tearing up the Plan for Coal" should so easily find its way into the language of news. It is made possible because the reasons for the dispute have almost entirely disappeared from such coverage and, in their place, journalists can give way to an apparently automatic focus on the union—Yours sincerely, Greg Philo, Glasgow University Media Group.

Sir—When Mr Easthope criticised the BBC in his letter (February 8) he specifically referred to BBC news programmes. Mr Prothero tries to defend the BBC by saying that "Newsnight and other programmes have also looked at the arguments." That isn't good enough.

The 6 pm and 9 pm news reaches more people and must therefore have a greater influence on public opinion. Mr Prothero should

not rely on "Newsnight and other programmes" to give a balance. The main news should be as factual as possible.

One news item last summer stands out in my mind as a blatantly biased attack against the miners: a main BBC news bulletin showed a young policeman walking away from a clash with pickets with his face covered in blood; but the commentator said: "Twenty-two pickets were injured and six policemen."

Where were the pictures of the injured pickets? How many people would question why more pickets were hurt after seeing the policeman's face covered in blood? It is what we see that makes the impact, not what we hear.—(Mrs) P. A. Mathewson, 137 Victoria Grove, Bridport, Dorset.

Sir—Alan Prothero (Letters, February 13) refuses to accept any criticism of BBC coverage of the mining dispute. This deafness to outside complaints seems to be shared by all too many of those entrusted with power in the broadcast media.

At a conference called by the Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom and the broadcasting unions, representatives of ITN, IRN, and the BBC displayed remarkably similar attitudes to complaints that they neither accurately nor fairly reflect the experience of the mining communities, women, Black people, anti nuclear campaigners, or the disabled.

Clearly, objections from such quarters are so marginal to the white, male, middle-class experience — which is accurately reflected in broadcasting — that they simply do not seem to exist. The broadcasters all emphatically denied any need for a change of policy on the basis that broadcasting output is entirely fair, balanced, and accurate.

It is worth remembering that requests for the right of reply are not always so shoddy. In recent years it has been awarded by the BBC to the British Medical Association, the National Coal Board, and Michael Heseltine. During the same period similar requests from the National Union of Mineworkers, the National Deaf Children's Society, and women from Greenham Common were ignored.

If Alan Prothero is seriously concerned to defend public-sector broadcasting, perhaps he will consider trading with more respect the legitimate, well-argued complaints from the public he is appointed to serve.—Yours sincerely, Leslie Wood, Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom, London W1.

Sponsors and satellites on the wrong wavelength

Sir—Your Leader (February 11) on the media misses one in particular that is seriously threatened by the Government's "mess of nonsense."

Independent local radio (ILR) has for some time been subjected to a sort of creeping deregulation which has at no time been debated, let alone approved, by Parliament. Purely commercial and financial considerations have led the IBA liberally to allow contractors to rewrite their programme schedules so that the public service they offer falls far short of the promise in their original franchise applications.

But this autumn the authority accelerated the process by "streamlining" its monitoring of station output. The emphasis must have in part been used to cover up authority's own financial difficulties, but the upshot is the same: fewer people on the ground, fewer advisory committee meetings, and less frequent review of company performance. In consequence, contractors are invited to regulate themselves.

If the experience of the trade unions is any guide, self-regulation is a laughable pipedream. As employers, at any rate, many of these companies are outstandingly irresponsible and exploitative. They think nothing of having young unemployed "volunteers" working for no wages.

However, we believe one of the major service threats to public service in radio is coming from outside: direct sponsorship by commercial interests. Years ago commercial broadcasting in Britain renounced Radio Luxembourg-style sponsorship in

favour of spot advertising. But direct sponsorship is gathering strength at an alarming pace in ILR and one wonders how long it will be before the news — as on Laser 558, the offshore pirate station — is brought to us by Newsweek or Time, with the sponsor's name mentioned between each story.

It must be recognised that "sponsored" stands irreconcilably opposed to "independent," and sponsored local radio was not what Parliament had in mind when it gave its assent to commercial radio in Britain. Robin Blake, Association of Cinematograph Technicians and Allied, London W1.

Sir—Let us hope that ministers take note of your admirable Letter of February 11. There is, as you say, no discernible policy or — giving the Government the benefit of the doubt — a policy that is hopelessly fragmented.

The Americans, as you suggest, have been allowed to take the lead as a result, in my view, of a divisive departmentalist mentality in Whitehall. What surely is needed is an EEC-wide policy for satellite television, especially direct broadcast satellite (DBS), which takes advantage of the technology available and the huge potential European market.

The Foreign Office, we are told, is committed to taking maximum advantage of Britain's EEC membership. The Department of Trade and Industry is striving to upgrade communications technology. But it is the Home Office which has responsibility for broadcasting. They just don't seem to talk to each other.

As a result DBS is set to develop within national boundaries. Because DBS in Britain is still earth-bound, there is still time for second thoughts. With the appointment of Lord Cockfield to the commission in Brussels, development of the European market must be at the top of ministers' agendas.

We must encourage the Foreign Office, the Department of Trade and Industry and the Home Office to get their act together.—Brian Quinn, Visnews Ltd, London NW10.

When food is a weapon of war

Sir—I am glad that Victoria Britain should suddenly feel moved to give her unconditional support to the Eritrean cause (Third World Review, February 8). Indeed the EPLF's claim to independence, sustained for 10 years, and their economic and social achievements, deserve the praise which she belatedly bestowed upon them. It is, however, a great shame that her eulogy of the EPLF should be marred by a vicious, undeserved and altogether groundless attack on the Tigre People's Liberation Front.

She should know that far from marching half a million peasants from Central Tigre to the Sudan, the EPLF, through the Relief Society of Tigre, has used the pitiful means put at its disposal by a few aid agencies to halt the migration to the West.

Furthermore, since 1983, offered free passage of food convoys and aid personnel through the territories which it controls. The Eritrean government has ignored this offer and never reciprocated although no one now believes its claim that it can reach the majority of famine-stricken people in Central Tigre.

As Ms Britain rightly points out, food is a key weapon in the war raging between the Derg and the various liberation movements which threaten its military rule. By refusing free passage of relief convoys, and

undertaking to move some 1.5 million Tigreans to unfamiliar and hostile areas of Western Ethiopia, the Ethiopian government is attempting to annihilate any form of popular resistance. It is now fleeing the new "resettlement camps" to seek refuge in the Sudan. Reports which have recently reached London tell horrific stories of harassment and misery.

What is needed now is Tigre is food for the hungry and tools for those still able to work so that the next harvest can be prepared. This can only be achieved in co-operation with the TPLF before the Ethiopian regime has had a chance to complete its planned mass deportation. (Lord) Avebury, House of Lords.

Sir—Victoria Britain describes this council as ultra-conservative and of encouraging the TPLF to enlarge a war it cannot win. Both are untrue.

One of its purposes is to discover researched facts and present them to policy-makers in the West for their own evaluation. Our two vice-presidents are leaders of the Labour and Liberal Parties, and our roll of members includes many politicians of all parties, as well as retired diplomats and others. Louis Fitzgibbon, The British Horn of Africa Council, Brighton.

A COUNTRY DIARY

NANT PERIS: by this time in winter Sirius, the Dog Star, has risen above the south-western horizon relatively early in the evening. It is a focal point of the heavens in clear weather, part of Orion's first hound called Canis Major. How unfortunate the urban dweller surrounded by artificial lighting; for him heavenly glory is a mere shadow against the orange glow. I was reminded of this urban poverty the other day. We had walked up broad and boggy Cwm Llafar from Bethesda and came at last to the rearing bulk of Ysgolion Duon, dark-shadowed cliff of

Black Ladders where the winter sun never comes. Crisp snow draped all the ridges above Cwm Llafar and as we went up the 900ft. of Western Gully thick ice crowded in and slowed up our progress. The rush-covered terrace at mid height was banked with powder snow and here we took a rest before pushing on in the falling light of late afternoon. The final 200ft. is simple scrambling in summer but now we had to chop steps in slabby ice bulges and finally force ourselves through a leaping cornice. It was almost dark when we stood on the ridge at 3,000ft., a silent night under a cloudless sky, and there

was Sirius high above Capel Curig. Besides being the brightest star in either hemisphere (it has two half times the mass of our sun) and like Venus — is capable of casting a shadow, its colour has been a point of argument for a long time. In ancient times it was a red star but now we see it as a blue one. Has it changed colour through the centuries? Now we walked along the frosty ridge towards Carnedd Dafydd's broad top and Sirius scintillated blue and red in turn, caused thus to change hue because some of the coloured rays are seen direct and other are reflected. ROGER A. REDFERN

An Aids memoire for the Health Minister

Sir—It is the Health Minister, John Patten, who is being "more than a little unfair" when he tries to duck Dr Weber's criticism of Government inactivity over Aids (Guardian, February 8).

It is almost two years since London Gay Switchboard, with the backing of the Health Education Council and the GLC, organised this country's first open conference on Aids. Nurses, doctors and researchers, at that conference and since, repeatedly called for urgent action. In all that time, the Government's response is best shown in their raids on gay

bookshops, to seize vital imported literature on Aids. We are entitled to better amends for years of culpable negligence than a junior minister's disingenuous claim that "no health authority has asked for more money." Oh yes? — Yours, Michael Rhodes, London NW5.

Sir,—Dear old Stanley Reynolds! His piece (February 9) about the Beverly Sisters performing to a gay male audience had me in absolute stitches. I know just what he means.

As a lesbian I'm often in

venues — pubs, restaurants, dances, bus stops, shops — where there are large crowds of heterosexuals. My how they primp and pose, and when there's a bit of music, they even sway about, and sometimes raise their fists or even faint.

Good for Stan, and all the other heterosexual journalists, who are supplementing their income during the renewed open season on gays. Even sex journalists are missing a trick or two, then, we've never quite got the hang of having a go at the heterosexuals. — Yours, Susan Hemmings, London N16.

The kids' stuff of Dresden



Sir—In a Channel 4 programme, Dresden Revisited, on February 12 it was stated that the massacre of civilians at Dresden was twice as high as that at Hiroshima. In fact it is now generally estimated that the grisly total was about the same in each operation: say 135,000, a figure which includes those Japanese who died of their injuries within the following four months.

But even this parity is misleading. Japanese are still dying as a result of their

injuries, and the eventual Hiroshima total is likely to be nearer 200,000. And whereas Dresden was attacked by 500 RAF bombers, one US B29 plane was able to deliver the 124-kiloton atomic bomb.

But "Little Boy," as the device was named, is kids' stuff by current levels. Each of the Tritons, which we are told we need to defend our way of life, will carry the power of 2,000 Hiroshimas. Stanley Hodgson, Battle, Sussex.

Slipping into bad habits

Sir—The number of injuries caused by people slipping on ice and snow would be greatly reduced if the Government brought in the law that has applied in Austria since Hapsburg times.

When snow falls it is the duty of every occupier to clear the pavement adjacent to his property. If this is not done, a person who falls and is injured can sue the adjacent occupier for damages. As a result, pavements are cleared very quickly in Austria and few old people sustain broken limbs. In Britain, local councils have never been quick to clear pavements, and in these days of rate-capping, will be even slower.—Yours faithfully, Laurie Smith, Carshalton Beeches, Surrey.

Miscellany

Sir—Mr Russell Sweeney (Letters, February 8) may like to know that the London Library has adopted the Anglo-American cataloguing rules, second edition, but it is disingenuous of him to expect that books catalogued in the last century should appear under this code.

Mr Sweeney makes my main point for me: it is little to do with cataloguing practice, and is one with which any working librarian would surely agree. Whenever library users meet bibliographical difficulties, they should turn to library staff for help.—Yours faithfully, Douglas Matthews, The London Library.

Sir,—In your article "Crying over the spilt beer" (February 9), reference was made to the joint Tynes Wear Transport/Scottish and Newcastle Breweries, "Drink and Drive" beer mat. It may be our policy to reduce the number of people on the road and promote use of public transport but I can assure you that we do not employ such drastic measures as encouraging drinking and driving and that the copy should have read "Drink and Ride." — Yours, C. Jane Branton, Tynes and Wear Transport.

Sir,—I didn't receive a Valentine today, but I did receive a Guardian last time for weeks I know which I'd rather have. G. H. Morris, Plympton, Devon.

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DIARY

WE may know all there is to know about the General Belgrano, the ship, but what about General Belgrano, the man? His name has been catapulted into the headlines 166 years after his death, yet what do we know about him?

The Encyclopaedia Britannica devotes only one line to him in its potpourri history of the Argentine War of Independence. "At last under the leadership of Manuel Belgrano," it says, "the patriot armies won." But further research has thrown up a fascinating, multi-faceted character.

He was an intellectual long before he was a general in the revolutionary army, a freethinker, a laissez-faire economist, an opponent of state power, an economic liberal, one could almost say a proto-Thatcherite.

He did not win his fame on the field of battle where he was considered to be too much the intellectual and still a novice in the art of war when he failed to liberate Paraguay from the Spaniards.

His fame began as one of a group of erudite writers who believed in private property as the basis of decision-making, who believed that work was the source of wealth, who challenged the assumption that the state should be the agency of economic growth. He was, in other words, the Friedrich Hayek or the Milton Friedman of Buenos Aires. Maybe if Mrs Thatcher had known...

So who got a letter from Mrs Thatcher on February 14? Well, Neil Kinnock for another. They were seen in the House of Commons chatting about their latest political manoeuvres. Kinnock broke into a little grin down the corridor to the tune of Rodgers and Hart's "My Funny Valentine".

CLIVE Ponting is being urged to take the Sun to court over Wednesday's editorial which claimed that he had advised on the prosecution of Lord Tiel. Ponting, even though it was denied in court, made other Sun-type gibes (e.g. "he's not even much of a man"), written by our old friend Mr Ronald Spark, author of the famous Sun editorial on the Falklands ("They are traitors in our midst").

Civil servants in the Ministry of Defence are busy collecting money to enable their colleague to bring the case. They were gratified that they had received a cheque — for £50 — from journalists on the Sun.

STILL on Mr Ponting, it is interesting to note that the judge in his case, Mr Justice McCowan, was not only one of the Conservative parliamentary candidates but also a member of the family of Sir Michael Havers, the Attorney-General. While he was head of chambers at 1 Crown Office Row in the seventies, one of the new young recruits was young Philip Havers. The law is a small world, isn't it?

THE search goes on for a university that is prepared to offer Mrs Thatcher a doctorate to make up for the terrible slight she received at the hands of her alma mater. The latest candidate is Middlesex Polytechnic, which may not have quite the social cachet of Oxford University but it is in Finchley and the chairman of its board of governors, Mr Vic Usher, is an old family friend and a former chairman of the Finchley Conservative Association.

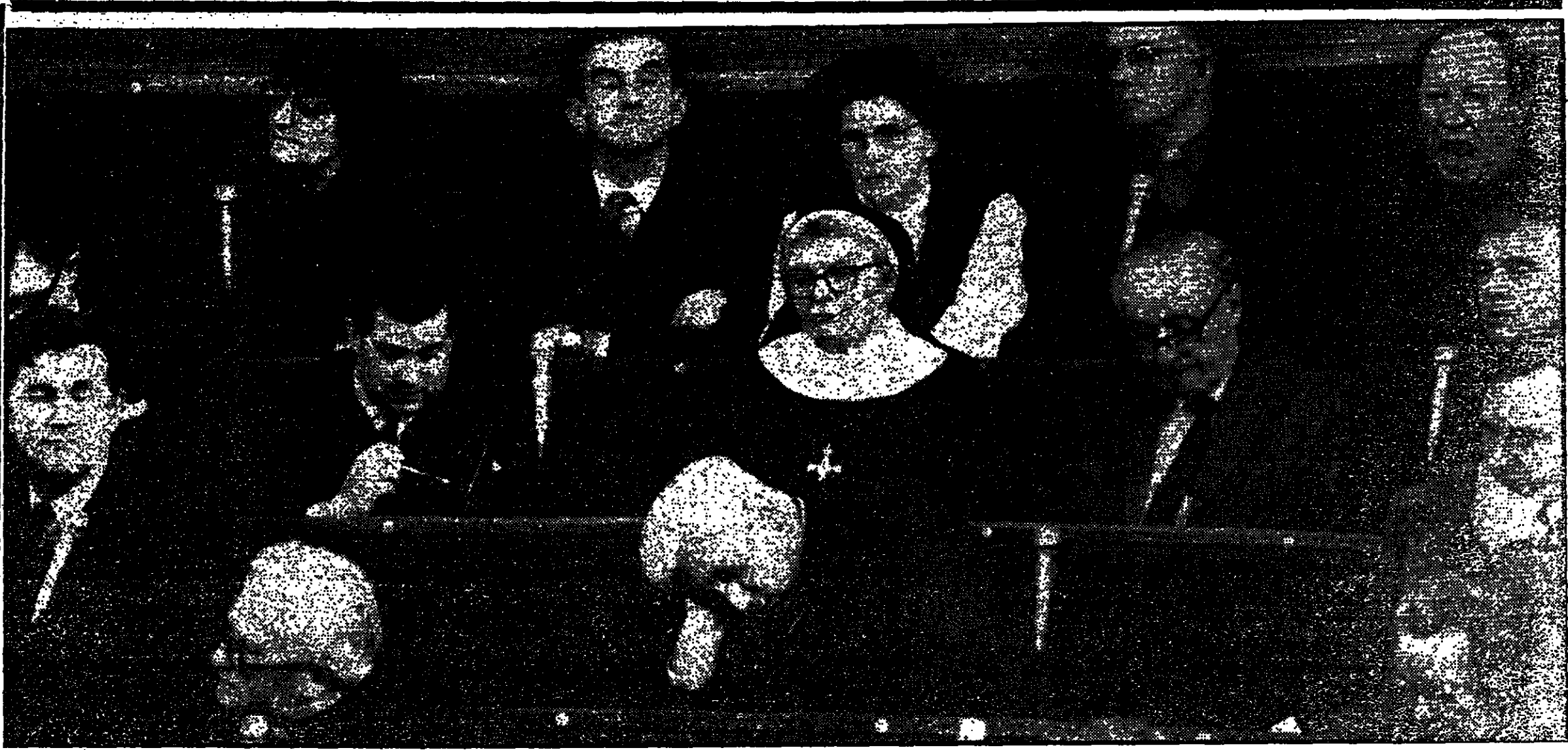
Mr Usher told the education press this week that he had discussed the matter with the poly's director, Dr Ray Rickett, and they would offer her an honorary degree "with great pleasure". It is a pity to report that this scheme has already bitten the dust as the poly only gives CNA degrees (Council for National Academic Awards) and national awards that are not in their power to give. The most the poly can do is to make Mrs Thatcher an Honorary Fellow of the Rendon Business School. Somehow, it's not the same.

MAYBE she will be forced to emulate the example of Mr Allan Roberts, Labour MP for Boodle, who in a deliberate attempt to upstage the Prime Minister — is returning next month to his comprehensive school, the Droylsden Littlemore Boys High School in Greater Manchester, to be awarded an honorary CSE.

THE pound may be at \$1.1035 in London but it's already dropped through parity in Kathmandu.

According to my diary colleague David Ross, just back from a trekking holiday in Nepal, the currency traders on Durbar Square in Kathmandu now give 22 rupees to the dollar and only 22 to the pound.

Martin Linton



Where everyone is on the side of the angels: the Synod in session. Picture by Garry Weaver

When the Church goes beyond belief



Terry Coleman

THE Church does not, these days, put on quite the show it used to. No one gets burned at the stake, but since it is an undoubted truth that orthodoxy is my doxy and heterodoxy the other chap's doxy, it was reasonable, in a week in which the General Synod of the Church of England debated the Nature of Christian Belief, to look forward to some show of faith, love, and backbiting.

One did not hope for the Annes of a Labour Party conference, though, one hoped for entertainment, but in the central matter of Belief, what happened? I cannot do better than steal the words of one delegate who, after listening to the faith debate, remarked that the bishops had nailed their colours firmly to the fence. On reflection, though, what more was to be expected from a Church which has translated its prayer book into GLC English?

It was, nevertheless, diverting to watch the nails being hammered in, and I shall come to Belief since that was the main event of the

week, but before that there was Freemasonry.

The scene must be set. The Synod — of Laity, clergy, and bishops — met in the hall of Church House, Westminster, where the Commons sometimes met in the war, after their own House was bombed, and where Churchill made some of his rousing speeches. And it was, throughout, bitterly cold. On the first day the secretary General, a grave figure looking like the synod's town clerk, rose to explain why. He said the central heating system dated from the 1930s. It was based on the idea that you drew in air from the outside, and then warmed it, but that day the wind was so bitter and in such a direction that...

(Laughter in the Synod). God's will be done. Into this chill, Mr Rodgers, a free-lance journalist and lay reader, introduced his motion that there should be an inquiry into the compatibility or otherwise of freemasonry and Christianity. He was freemasonry, he asked, as some of them suspected, a distinctly anti-Christian, neo-Gnostic society of neutral, if not positively sinister, purpose? Mr Clark's manner was that of a young Conservative on the make, hoping to attract the attention of his betters with a view to future preferment. "We ask," he said, "for the wise and faithful to clear our confusion."

At which Miss Christian Howard, of Yorkshire, set about clearing his confusion all right. Let them, she said, preserve a decent reticence. What sort of an inquiry could be made, and how? Her grandfather, who had been a field-marshal, had also been a mason, and so had her brother. It afterwards emerged that Miss

Howard's brother was the late chairman of the BBC, Howard of Castle Howard, and that Miss Howard is, as it were, Miss Brideshead. She is, incidentally, descended from that Catherine Howard who was Henry VIII's fifth queen.

Another member mentioned that Geoffrey Fisher of Canterbury, and the bishops of Durham, Calcutta, Birmingham, and Truro, among others, had been masons. At which Mr Clark, thoroughly routed, sneered at Miss Howard's relatives, and said, for all the world like Mr Slope reincarnate, "I ask only for light." That should have done for him, but the Synod, on a show of hands, voted for an inquiry. And what shall the Church do now, if the masons tell it to jump in the lake?

On the second day, two little tendencies had become apparent. The first was to talk about "the people in the pews," which is patronising if you like, and also a bit unwise in a Church which now has almost more chiefs than Indians. There are today 109 bishops in England and Wales, whereas in 1897, which I take as the date of Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee when Church and State were at the height of their power, there were only 35.

The second tendency, shared with the Labour Party and the trade unions, is a distrust of "the media." No doubt, newspapers, radio, and television are full of lies, and no doubt television shows one or two of the 109 bishops dropping off to sleep, but the Church should be the very last to throw stones, considering that the media of its own Christian message, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John — were all writing at least 20 years after the event, if any,

having no tape recorders or shorthand even, and writing hearsay upon hearsay.

"Everything, but everything, hinges on our belief in the Resurrection," said the Bishop of Winchester, who showed himself throughout the week to be a very wise man. Just so, and one is obliged to say that as to the Resurrection there really aren't half a dozen facts to rub together, or half a dozen bones as the Bishop of Durham might say.

It was Durham's remarks about the Resurrection and the Virgin Birth which caused the demand for the debate on Christian Belief, though, I think, he was not once mentioned by name. A gravamen, or complaint, had been put down, reciting that hurt, disgust, and confusion had been caused by those whose duty it was to maintain quietness, love, and peace, and asserting that the faith should not be thus suffered to be eroded, diminished, or adulterated.

But the complainants were a mighty unimpressive lot. Mr Philip Lowgrove of Hertfordshire said that "at the front line" he was asked questions like, "Well, was she a virgin or wasn't she?" It was as if their own goalie (I think he meant Durham again) had slung the ball into his own net, and pulled the rug out from under their feet. Then the Rev David Holloway of Newcastle said that an effete theological liberalism was now irrelevant to many of the thinking young. He had already said the Kingdom of God was not a Gnostic charade, and that God cared for the present, material world and was not going to let it rot for ever. As some were suggesting the bones of Jesus were now rotting in the soil of Palestine.

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York, and the Bishop of Winchester, spoke with elegance and gravitas, indeed nailing their colours to the fence but doing so well and truly. But they have been reported at length elsewhere, and it was two other speakers who most struck me.

The Dean of Lichfield, the Very Rev J. H. Lang, said he was both a Christian, retaining the orthodoxy of his early life, and also a Twentieth Century agnostic. He should not hold in contempt views we did not share, for we ourselves might be in part wrong. He was, however, reverently, we should speak the truth as we believed it, since our subject was of such great reverence.

And then there was Mrs Hilda Flint of Southwark. Speaking about the Virgin Birth, she said she had come to see the concept of virginity not as a sterile absence of sex but as the pure, innocent, creative giving of the whole person which resulted in a mother who was not a virgin, but a mother who remained pure, innocent, and virginal. Mary the Mother of God was a virgin whose whole being had been penetrated in the most intimate and indeed fully sexual way — how was still mystery — but those who were mothers had had the chance to see a glimpse of the truth, and experience the total absorption of oneself and one's body in pregnancy and birth.

And that, I believed, induced in some who heard it a bit of awe. It was well said, anyway, and if there was a bit of awe it was as much as when the Archbishop of York sprang the Resurrection, asked how many of us, reciting that part of the Creed, believed

that meant that their actual bodies would rise out of the grave.

So the bishops agreed to look into Belief and report back, and the Synod proceeded. In two days, reporters were provided with 600 pages, typed or printed, of reports, speeches, and order papers. This beats one Trades Union Congress I can remember, where press and delegates had to make do with only 237 pages of such information.

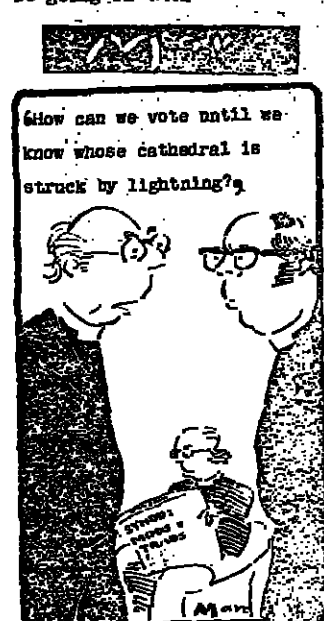
Mr Selwyn Gummer, chairman of the Conservative Party, rose to make a point of order, and was promptly told the matter had already been covered, as those would know who had been there earlier. (Cheer.) The Church of England is no longer the Conservative Party at prayer.

Then, yesterday morning, we were on to cruise missiles. Now it is one thing for the Church to set out to investigate masonry which it probably lacks the means to do. That is bad enough. It is another thing, whatever the rights and wrongs of cruise missiles, for the Church solemnly to advise Her Majesty's Government what to do with them.

But there the motion was, with amendments, very verbose, calling on HMG to do this, that, and the other about cruise missiles, Trident, and so on. Synod was told the majority of British citizens opposed cruise missiles, and exhorted to "articulate the conscience of the nation about the abuse of God's creation." Such language is puff pastry. Then Nato was dragged in. Then Greenham Common. A young woman said she had asked a guard at Greenham why he was doing it and he said he would otherwise be on the dole: it was not said that the Government should compro-

mise men's consciences? Then up rose York. He was asking Synod, as I understood him, not to make themselves look foolish. He was suggesting some member might move next business.

Confusion. Point of order followed point of order. At one moment I could swear there was a point of order on a point of order. Claus, this and that of standing orders was consulted. Someone moved the adjournment, which would be the end of that. A show of hands was too close to be decisive. So was a count. There had to be a division. Members trooped out and, when they trooped back, it emerged that 150 were against the adjournment and 150 for. The Church triumphant had resolved to do nothing. Crisis of "shame." But sensible. The Virgin Birth and the Resurrection are enough to be going on with.



The bored game to end them all

LEONARD BARDEN charts the ill-fated course of a struggle for the world chess title

Proclaimed the chess match of the year, it was a bore for long periods but ended yesterday with a controversial abandonment just as play reached a climax. Anatoly Karpov, classical stylist, and Gary Kasparov, young dynamic risk-taker, just didn't gel at the board.

They set up a string of negative records. It was the longest match in terms of playing days (157), it had the greatest number of draws (40), the most draws by agreement (15), the highest number of postponements and time-outs, it had rumours of foul play and fixed results, it got slow handclaps and boos from the

audience, and it left the USSR Chess Federation with a king-sized rent bill.

Champion Karpov began well. He missed a clear win in game two, then took the third against weak opening play. In the sixth, Karpov won a pawn, then gave Kasparov the choice of two knight moves. One of these would have clinched the game and tied the match. Kasparov chose the other. Two all to Karpov.

After a wave of tournament victories, the challenger was vulnerable to a setback. His trainers recommended postponing game seven, but were overruled by Mrs Kasparov, mother and manager. Gary's favourite

Tarrasch Defence, active piece play for a weak pawn, led to disaster. He became short of clock time, floundered in the final moves, and Karpov broke through.

Three-nil. Kasparov then took a belated time-out. Klara Kasparova no longer appeared in the playing-hall, and the trainers said "drop the Tarrasch". Kasparov decided to give it one more chance, and adjourned game nine with a draw in sight. Then Karpov produced "the most remarkable move of the match," his 37 N-N2! pawn sacrifice. It looked so improbable that even England's chess Olympic gold medalist John Nunn admitted he

wouldn't have considered it, and it won by force. Four-nil.

It seemed the series was over; Karpov required just two more wins against a demoralised opponent. Viktor Korchnoi and the Times claimed "fix," that Kasparov was throwing the match after personal threats from Soviet officials. But the challenger, who had spent the evening, now altered strategy to effect. He decided to slowball, and began to play quick draws, even when White.

After a further 17 attrition games, all drawn, commentators called the play "anti-chess" while spectators greeted an early draw by de-

relative whistles and slow handclaps.

The champion's fifth win in game 27 at last galvanised Kasparov. Just one error away from final defeat, he employed more active openings and scored his first full point in game 32. Karpov's play was lacklustre. Fatigue was starting to show. Five-one.

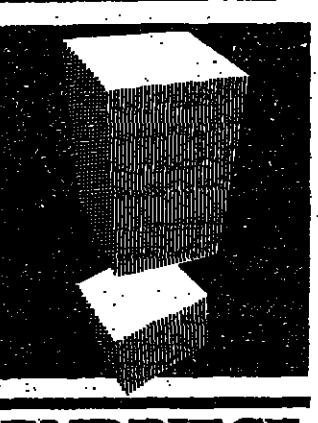
Karpov retreated into another drawing sequence. At game 37, when hostilities stopped after 15 moves, the shortest of the entire match, patience snapped in the USSR Chess Federation. After three months of dry draws there were shrinking ticket sales and a large hole in the federation budget.

The chess show was pushed out to make room for a science ceremony, then for Marshal Ustinov's lying-in-state.

But by now Karpov's health was suffering. He was plagued by weight loss, disturbed sleep, and a gnawing anxiety over the missing sixth win. Timeouts became more frequent, Karpov became an outcast at a Moscow clinic. In early February, the Hall of Columns finally lost patience. Their concert programme was disrupted by the match, and they told the chess show to leave. Then Kasparov, growing in confidence, scored his second win against some of the worst play of Karpov's

career. The champion's camp proposed to Kasparov to call off the match; Gary would not agree. In game 38, Kasparov won his second in a row, to reach five-three. That weekend Karpov telephoned his friend, FIDE President Campomanes, in Dubai, and asked him to stop play.

Now there will be a return, starting on September 1, probably with a 24-game limit. Karpov will be refreshed, a tied match will keep his title so he can play for draws. Kasparov has emerged from a hopeless situation to almost a moral victory. The younger man is likely to begin the rematch a strong favourite.



Roy Hattersley

REGULAR readers may recall that one of this column's principal characteristics is the awe in which William Shakespeare is held.

The idolatry is wholly orthodox. I know that he was born of woman and came, briefly, amongst us. But I cannot believe that he was mortal, or that even a single cog could have written the histories, the tragedies and the comedies — not to mention the sonnets. Ever since I first saw the Colosseum, I have realised that only a literary Trinity could have wrought so many miracles. Now I have discovered more evidence to confirm his transcendental divinity. He wrote every word without the aid of Tipp-Ex.

My infatuation with Tipp-Ex is, I confess, in part the product of the pleasure I enjoy from mastery of just one of modern science's minor marvels. I am not, by nature, always at ease with the products of our technological age. Indeed I find considerable difficulty in switching off my stereo cassette-recorder or changing the channels on my television set. Normally, I excuse my incompetence by explaining that I am a Renaissance Man, and that

during the Renaissance none of these gadgets were invented. But thanks to Tipp-Ex I can stumble a couple of steps toward the twentieth century.

For with Tipp-Ex I can be exactly like a word processor — deleting a noun and moving it to a different place within the sentence, substituting one adjective for another, re-arranging carelessly split infinitives, and even obliterating whole paragraphs. Tipp-Ex has become an obsession. I pretend that I point out each "i" with its dot out of vertical line and every "t" which is not crossed at 90 degrees because of my obsession for neatness and accuracy. But in truth I Tipp-Ex for Tipp-Ex's sake. I am an addict, a Tipp-Exaholic. Without noticing it, I have become a bottle a day man and I see no hope of escaping from its opaque compulsion.

Tipp-Ex is not, of course, the only white unguent which can be spread across the page to make all things new. There are other agen-

cies of longhand and typewriter redemption. But Tipp-Ex has acquired the special status of a Hoover or a Biro, Kleenex or Frigidaire. It has become a brand name which is confused with the whole generic product — no small achievement for an export from the Federal Republic of Germany, which scenery likely to alienate the gentile writers who would otherwise place bulk orders for "correction fluid" as Liquid Paper sub-titles itself. There is something wholly unsatisfactory about the names of all the brands of "white stuff" as it is known in my office — Liquid Paper, Supracore, Correcta, and

the blessed Tipp-Ex itself. It is difficult to believe that anything so unimpressive could contribute to the construction of a work of art of the sort which you are reading now. But it has.

Indeed the page on which I write has been covered by so many coats of correcting fluid that, were I to fold it, the epidermis of writing would flake away like the surface of the Dead Sea Scrolls. And even now, the tips of my fingers proclaim the way in which I have spent the evening. For how ever justified correcting fluid's quick-drying claims may be, the fluid never dries quite quickly enough to meet the impatient demands of the enthusiastic writer. Filled with an urgent passion to change "their" to "its," the Tipp-Ex assisted author can either risk his pen-ship by plunging it into the still tacky page, or apply a technique that could be called finger Tipp-Ex: I leave my finger prints on every line which I write.

Since Tipp-Ex is a great

deal easier to get on than to get off I often walk the streets of London and Birmingham with plectral hands. Non-writers of my acquaintance either shy away from my friendly greeting, fearing that a handshake will infect them with some terrible skin disease, or cross-examine me about my recently acquired mania for do-it-yourself home decoration. I have given up trying to explain. Instead of causing offence by the apparently ironic description of how writing for the Guardian causes patches of pigment to appear on my hands, I invent stories about whitewashing the scullery ceiling and marking-out football pitches.

But there is no embarrassment so painful that it cannot be more than outweighed by the bliss of being able to remove part of a sentence, polish it and then put it back in the paragraph. Rubbers never remove patches of pigment without leaving an indented shadow on the page. Crossing out is crude, and starting again at the top of a

new page consumes too much paper and too much energy. But with Tipp-Ex and Co. the lines can be honed and smoothed until they shine to the full (though inevitably inadequate extent of the writer's capability).

Yet William Shakespeare wrote: "Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?" 400 years before Tipp-Ex was invented and wrote 13 more sonnets in all. He also wrote one or two plays, a couple of masques, and a handful of poems. In the pre-correction fluid days of late Elizabethan England, the amount of crossing out that such a volume of work must have involved could not have been within the power of a single mortal. Perhaps Francis Bacon helped him by tearing up the sonnets which did not scan and the soliloquies that would not hold the audience's attention. Or he may have been a god. What would he have been had he been able to Tipp-Ex his work into something past perfection?



SATURDAY NOTEBOOK

TALK OF the United States imposing an import surcharge will ring bells all round the world, for it was an import surcharge — introduced by President Nixon in the early '70s — which finally persuaded the international community that a trade war was imminent and pushed them into the last round of multilateral trade negotiations — the so-called

Tokyo Round which lasted from 1973 until 1979. If the imposition of an import surcharge, or the threat of one, were to bring about a similar reaction this time, it would be well worth the bitterness that such a move would undoubtedly cause. Because only six years ago, at the end of the last one it is clearly time for another round of talks under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) — the very initials sound like a despairing expletive. Few topics inspire such a soporific response as international trade negotiations.

But this is largely the fault of the GATT Secretariat which has developed its work in a cocoon of jargon that for impenetrability, rivals the EEC's. The members are not members but "contracting parties" and they hold MTNs to discuss, among other things, QRS. Alternatively they might choose to look at "voluntary restraint" or "rules of origin."

Until you have been told what these initials and phrases stand for the GATT publications are literally incomprehensible. Which is a pity, because what is done in the name of the GATT at its secretariat's monolithic lakeside headquarters in Geneva and by trade ministers around the world is of concern to us all — not just in the woolly sense of it being good for the international community, but good for you and I as individual consumers.

Restrictions on commerce, which are what the GATT was designed to prevent, cost us money. If there were no barriers to trade in textiles, for example, such as those enshrined in the Multi-Fibre Arrangement, which was set up to keep clothing made in poor countries out of markets in rich ones, you and I would not have to spend as much money on dressing ourselves because we could fill our wardrobes with the perfectly good shirts and skirts and so on that are made in places like Indonesia at a fraction of the cost

which it takes to make them here in Britain. The clothing manufacturers of course would argue that removing the protection they now enjoy would condemn their industry to certain death and their workers to certain unemployment. But then the removal of resources, including human resources, from uncompetitive industries cannot be good for the overall competitiveness of the economy. In any case, as a Trade Policy Research Centre report which looked at the problem at the end of last year found, the "workers displaced from these industries usually find new jobs, often more rewarding ones than those they have lost in these notoriously low-paying industries."

Trade restrictions can also cost far more than they save, although this fact often goes unnoticed or at least unquantified. One of the best examples in fact concerns Britain and Indonesia. In 1980 Britain slapped a quota on Indonesian textiles which succeeded in protecting the British textile business

from competition that would have lost it a few hundred thousand pounds, but the consequent retaliation by Indonesia is thought to have cost the rest of British industry millions of pounds in lost contracts. Finally, and most importantly, for as long as the developed world continues to import goods such as clothing which the developing world can produce more economically because of its cheap labour, the Third World will continue to import the goods of the developed world and services like banking and insurance in which it is the developed world that has the edge.

Indeed, the perception in the Third World is that it is gaining more than it is losing from the present arrangement which is why the developing nations, led by Brazil and India and supported by the French, have so far proved most resistant to the idea of a new round. The principal purpose of the next round, however, would not be so much to break down barriers to trade

Olivetti said to be interested in buying BBC micro maker

Acorn faces winding-up petition

By Maggie Brown
The Acorn computer company is the subject of a winding-up petition in the Companies section of the High Court from one of its unpaid creditors, component supplier Circuit Techniques.

Speculation about the future of the company, which makes the BBC micro, is rife, with Olivetti, the Italian-controlled computer and business machine multinational, rumoured to be interested in buying it. The petition was accepted and issued by the High Court late on Thursday evening, and Mr Robert Kilpatrick, of Buckinghamshire solicitors Collins & Co, said yesterday he expects it to be served in Cambridge early next week. A court hearing has been fixed for April 1.

It was sought by Circuit Techniques director, Mr John Edwards, because of unpaid bills for printed circuits supplied to Acorn for its home computers from last November onwards.

Mr Chris Curry, co-founder of the financially distressed Acorn, refused to comment last night either on the petition or possible talks with Olivetti. Acorn, with new advisers, Close Brothers, is believed to be trying a range of approaches for a cash injection or new backing. No one at Olivetti was available for comment.

Mr Edwards claims he is acting over £19,000, allegedly outstanding. He says he stopped supplying Acorn in late December, because of non-payment.

Inmos looks to US for cash aid

By Peter Large, Technology Correspondent
INMOS, the microchip company set up by the Labour government in 1978 and sold to Thorn EMI last September, looks likely to go to the American market rather than the British to raise expansion capital later this year.

Yesterday, Inmos reported a 1984 profit of £1.8 million, on a turnover of £10.8 million, and Mr Harold Mourgue, the company's new chairman appointed by Thorn EMI, said that plans were well advanced for a possible share flotation.

He said that no decisions had been taken; that any plans would involve £20 million to £30 million; that this would be additional capital with no major dilution of Thorn EMI's 84 per cent Inmos holding; and that a central aim would be to provide the staff shareholders — most of the 2,200 employees — with a window to the market so that they can get a capital gain for their efforts.

He added that the US share market was more receptive to new companies and new technologies than the British. The UK attitude was rather suspicious, "but things change."

Mr Mourgue said he had been rather saddened by the London market's immediate reaction to Thorn EMI's purchase of Inmos. "You have to take a long-term look at high technology," he said.

The market expected the group to go into hibernation — but also expected instant results. The 1984 profit, on a turnover of £10.8 million, was Inmos's first, and Thorn EMI shares rose 4p to 451p on the news. The profit was ahead of last year's but was partly due to the strength of the dollar: 85 per cent of sales are in the US and less than 4 per cent in Britain.

Last year Inmos invested more than £28 million and Mr Mourgue said the 1985 figure would be higher. He estimated that Inmos would need £20 million to £30 million of investment in the next two to three years, including production expansion at the plants in Newport, South Wales, and Colorado Springs in the US. No decision had yet been taken on opening a third plant.

Thorn EMI was determined that that support would be available, he said. They had "a lot of doubters to convince", but Inmos was a very good buy. Microchip markets were expanding and it was difficult to see other areas of expansion in the US.

The company's acquisition had added "a whole new dimension to the thinking" within Thorn EMI. Mr Ian Barron, Inmos's UK head, would be joining the group's research board, because Thorn EMI had been conscious of a lack of real research and innovation.

Inmos's products are at the top end of the mass market for microchips and are therefore rather less susceptible to price fluctuations than what Mr Mourgue called the "jelly bean" chip producers.

Inmos, having already arranged for its chips to be made under licence in Japan, is now completing a similar deal with South Korea.

LWT gives votes to all shares

By Andrew Cornelius
London Weekend Television yesterday paved the way for other television companies to scrap their two tier share structure by agreeing to give votes to all its shareholders.

A special meeting of LWT shareholders, held at the company's South Bank headquarters agreed overwhelmingly to the proposal to create a single class of voting share to enfranchise the holders of 18 million non-voting shares. Previously LWT had 60,000 voting shares in issue held by a tightly knit

group of shareholders including News International and the Daily Telegraph.

Voting shareholders will now see their stakes diluted to the extent that no individual will hold more than a few per cent of the group's total equity. They will be compensated by issue of five new shares for each voting share already held in a deal which takes effect immediately.

LWT has been negotiating the terms of the deal to franchise all its shares for more than a year. The Independent Broadcasting Authority has to be satisfied that a television contractor will not fall into the wrong hands and finally agreed the LWT proposals last month.

The two tier share structure was introduced to satisfy the IBA. Under the new arrangement LWT will restrict the number of shares which can be acquired by a single investor.

TSW, the independent television contractor for the South West, was the first ITV company to introduce a single class of voting share when it was floated on the stockmarket in 1982.

The abolition of the two tier voting structure will make it easier for LWT to raise funds for expansion. LWT alone expected to need up to £20 million as its share of the costs of Direct Broadcasting by Satellite. But several ITV contractors have yet to discuss plans to change their share structures. RTV, Anglia and Tyne Tees recently admitted to having no plans at all while moves have been stalled at several other companies.

By Alex Brummer and Margaret Pagan
The new US Treasury Secretary, Mr James Baker, said yesterday that the United States has been regularly intervening in the foreign exchange markets since he took office on February 3. He said this was in accord with the agreement reached in Washington by the Group of Five finance ministers earlier this year.

It was Mr Baker's first public statement on the subject since he took office and was being scrutinised closely last night for any indications of a change in American policy towards the foreign exchanges.

Mr Baker said that there had been a "moderation of the tone" of US intervention policy but gave no hints that the Americans are about to proceed on the kind of full scale market operations which some analysts believe are necessary to knock down the dollar.

He said that the recent US intervention had "some effect" but the US currency had continued to rise and indicated the Reagan Administration view that the dollar's value can only be set by the markets and that central banks, acting together, can only have a limited impact on the foreign exchanges.

While refusing to classify the dollar as overvalued Mr Baker acknowledged that the best way to reverse the sharp capital flows into Washington was to reduce the federal budget deficit. This, he said, would reduce the amount of foreign capital required by the US to fund its borrowing requirements and might also have a "psychological impact."

The dollar slipped back sharply on foreign exchanges yesterday against all other currencies due to a temporary pause on profit-taking ahead of the weekend rather than any downward trend in sentiment.

Sterling drew strength from the dollar's weakness and in early trading gained more than a cent to touch \$1.08. This was the first time the pound reached the \$1.10 level all week but in quieter conditions in afternoon trading it fell back to close at \$1.077.

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Dealers suggest that the dollar's retreat is a reaction to the recent upward climb and the belief that central banks will take advantage of Monday's US public holiday to sell dollars.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Thermalite heading for market

THERMALITE, the UK's largest maker of concrete building blocks, is heading for a stock market debut with a £60 million plus price tag and big windfalls for the management and work force. The former Laing Group company changed hands less than two years ago in a £14 million management buyout deal. Now Thermalite's chairman, Mr Peter Aldridge, is setting his sights on a full Stock Exchange listing by the spring of next year.

When Laing sold the Birmingham-based company in June 1983, it received a premium of around £1 million. Profits for the past year are believed to have totalled around £6 million before tax, and this year the total could be some £10 million. "We have turned the company round through promoting premium products, increasing sales and reducing costs," Mr Aldridge said.

A former Thermalite managing director, he returned to head the buyout deal backed by Lloyds Bank International and a number of institutional investors. The management team received a 15 per cent share stake with an agreement that could take that up to a third of the total depending on profits performance.

PAN AM yesterday announced a £200 million loss but said it still had cash to buy the European Airbus. It has on order. The US airline blamed the pre-tax loss during 1984 on not having enough capacity, particularly on the transatlantic routes, and the strength of the US dollar. In 1983, the airline lost \$67 million, but Peter Rummelte, Pan Am's UK vice-president, said in London that he was optimistic for the future as the airline had more than 4000 jobs in the bank for expansion.

ANOTHER bid tendered for the M6, one of the British Shipbuilders' ship yards currently under the privatisation hammer, fell by the wayside yesterday when its former parent, the private sector Yarrow group, revealed that it would not be making a formal bid after consideration of the financial details available on the yard.

THE US economy appears to be off to a good start this year, according to two government reports released yesterday which show inflation remained subdued and industrial production expanded last month. Wholesale prices were unchanged in January following a 0.2 per cent December increase. The Labour Department said. Separately, the Federal Reserve Board said industrial production grew 0.4 per cent in January and 5.1 per cent over the past 12 months.

DUNLOP has signed its second tyre contract with China. The latest deal is worth over £17 million and is for the supply of technology, equipment and technical assistance for the manufacture of radial truck tyres in North East China.

Levi cuts UK jobs by a third

By our Business Staff
A leading jeans manufacturer, Levi Strauss, revealed yesterday that it is to prune its UK workforce by a third, with most of the redundancies at two Scottish factories in areas already suffering from high unemployment rates.

A total of 570 jobs are to be lost, with the group's factories at Bothwell, in Lanarkshire, and Inchinnan, in Renfrewshire, closing down completely. At a cost of 227 and 195 jobs respectively. A further 150 redundancies are to be made at Levi's administrative offices in Northampton, and Wembley, in North London.

A spokesman for the US group said that while demand for jeans and denim remained substantial, sales forecasts indicated a need to reduce UK manufacturing capacity. Denim sales peaked in 1981, and while demand has remained relatively stable, it has not continued to grow in line with previous expectations.

The decision by Levi came under immediate fire from union representatives. A spokesman for the National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers, Mr Des Farrell, said Levi's employees were "shocked and angered" at the news.

Referring to recent praise lavished by Levi on its Scottish workforce, Mr Farrell said: "People went into these areas to work and they believed they had a secure future. Now they are planning to meet the Levi UK president, Mr Robin Dow, in Scotland next Tuesday when they will press for the two factories to be kept open."

The Levi redundancies come at the end of what has proved another disastrous week for employment in Britain's manufacturing industry, with some 4,500 job losses announced in the past five days.

US moves on dollar dealings

By Alex Brummer and Margaret Pagan
The new US Treasury Secretary, Mr James Baker, said yesterday that the United States has been regularly intervening in the foreign exchange markets since he took office on February 3. He said this was in accord with the agreement reached in Washington by the Group of Five finance ministers earlier this year.

It was Mr Baker's first public statement on the subject since he took office and was being scrutinised closely last night for any indications of a change in American policy towards the foreign exchanges.

Mr Baker said that there had been a "moderation of the tone" of US intervention policy but gave no hints that the Americans are about to proceed on the kind of full scale market operations which some analysts believe are necessary to knock down the dollar.

He said that the recent US intervention had "some effect" but the US currency had continued to rise and indicated the Reagan Administration view that the dollar's value can only be set by the markets and that central banks, acting together, can only have a limited impact on the foreign exchanges.

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Employees attempt to buy P & O ferries

By Andrew Cornelius
A 47-year-old chief engineer on one of the three P&O cross Channel ferries recently bought the company.

Mr Peter Guiler, chief engineer on the "Tiger", bought European Ferries as part of a £12.5 million deal to buy P&O's Anglo-French ferry operation, claims that the Office of Fair Trading will refer the takeover for investigation if he can win Cf support for an employee buyout of the business.

In a letter to the Dover Express, a local newspaper, Mr Guiler said that he had been advised on possible sources of funding for a buyout by the local Conservative MP, Mr Peter Rees, Chief Secretary to the Treasury.

Yesterday the OFT said that no decision had been made on whether to refer the takeover for investigation by the Commission. In 1981 the Monopolies Commission refused to allow Sealink UK to take over Sealink UK because the merger would operate against the public interest. European Ferries will carry more than half the 20 million passengers who cross the Channel each year after taking over the P&O ferries.

Mr Guiler said that the loss-making P&O business could operate at a profit.

European Ferries is not trading the proposed employee buyout to service. "From our point of view the business is not up for sale," the company said yesterday.

Negotiations with unions over future manning in the former P&O business have yet to be resolved.

Intasun shares bought up

By Andrew Cornelius
A privately-owned British holiday company has built an 8.1 per cent stake in Intasun, one of the UK's biggest holiday tour operators.

Iberotravel, a member of the Association of British Travel Agents, emerged as a key stakeholder in Intasun two weeks ago after steadily buying Intasun shares over a period of several months.

The news that Iberotravel had increased its stake in Intasun from the 5 per cent previously disclosed to 8.1 per cent coincided with the sale of 1.5 million Intasun shares by Sir James Hill & Sons, to reduce its Intasun stake to 8.3 per cent.

Iberotravel specialises in the business of transferring holidaymakers from airports to their hotels and is associated with the Spanish company which works with Intasun in Spain.

Intasun's shares rose by 2p to 115p on the stock market yesterday as speculation mounted that Iberotravel would increase its holding in the group.

The recent dealings in Intasun also leave a question mark over Sir James Hill's future with Intasun. The Intasun board has pledged to support the nomination of a director by Hill for as long as Hill holds a stake of more than 10 per cent in the group. Yesterday's share sale brings the Hill stake well below this figure.

Brazil loan talks

Officials from the International Monetary Fund and Brazil will meet again next week in Washington to discuss the final year of the country's three-year adjustment programme.

The talks are aimed at reaching agreement on new undertakings to be given by Brazil which will allow it to qualify for third-year disbursements of funds by the IMF. The most important question will be what new steps Brazil will be willing to take to bring

down its rate of inflation. This is running far above the target rate agreed by the IMF and the government in earlier negotiations.

On Thursday the IMF revealed it had cut off its loans to Brazil, ruining a commercial bank debt rescheduling package.

The talks will also try to establish a disbursement schedule for the third year of Brazil's adjustment programme running from March this year to February next year.

City acts on 'sell-and-bid' tactic

The City rules on takeovers are being tightened to prevent any repetition of the controversial "sell-and-bid" tactics sprung this week by the Dee Corporation on Booker.

The Dee Corporation threatened to sell more of its 15 million shares in Booker

look artificially attractive. The Takeover Panel, which has been criticised for failing to close loopholes before they are breached, is understood to have drafted a new rule that will formally limit the room for manoeuvre of any predator that tries to emulate the Dee strategy.

The Dee Corporation threatened to sell more of its 15 million shares in Booker

Attempt to ease pension fears
Pension hint by cautious Lawson
BUDGET THREAT TO THE SELF EMPLOYED
and those not in Company Pension Schemes

3 Vital Questions to answer before Budget Day, March 19.
1. Are you aware that under current legislation the size of your tax-free retirement nest egg is restricted by Parliament?
2. Did you know that the Chancellor is rumoured to be considering taxing this sum in the future?
3. Are you aware that a new Pension 54% 'Extra Cash' Account can provide up to more tax-free cash than existing plans...and with the full support of the Inland Revenue?

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Africa on verge of unprecedented crisis

By Christopher Ruhe, Economics Editor.
Africa is on the verge of a human crisis on an unprecedented scale as a result of the fastest population growth of any continent in history, widespread soil erosion and the neglect of farming, the annual report from the Washington-based Worldwatch Institute says today.

Lester Brown, director of the Worldwatch study, State of the World 1985, writes.

The researchers find that sharp population growth is now causing continental changes in natural systems which can only compound the vicious circle of declining living standards. In Africa, the research team find that population growth may now be increasing reducing rainfall by decreasing the land's vegetation cover.

Such effects on ecological systems are not limited to the Third World, the report says.

Acid rain and air pollutants from fossil fuels burned by increased the damage to West German forests alone from 8 per cent of the forested area in 1982 to 34 per cent in 1983, and 50 per cent in 1984.

The report also underlines the potential threat of carbon dioxide and other "greenhouse" gases released to the atmosphere which could cause climatic shifts disrupting food production, reducing dependable water supplies and eventually jeopardising coastal cities and towns.

The American corn belt and the principal growing regions of the Soviet Union are potential rainfall losers as a result of "greenhouse effects," it says.

Though China could also lose rainfall in the North and gain in the South, worsening the existing water imbalance, the report finds that the country has recently made "broad gains in the food from China's grain production per head has risen by nearly a third since 1970, in large part due to its success in halving the rate of population growth

Williams & Glyn's Bank plc
NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS
From March 1st 1985, the standard limit of charges for personal current accounts will be amended so that all non-automated debit and credit items, including cheques and standing orders are charged at 30p each instead of 28p each. All other charges remain unchanged.
This will not affect personal current account customers who qualify for free banking.

ONE POUND

First the good news: interest rates are riding high and it's a good time for adventurous savers. Now the bad: interest on bank deposit accounts will be taxed at source from April. Christine Stopp and Joe Irving suggest profitable schemes for investors while, right, David Worsfold explains why the really rich take their loot into insurance.

How to make a pound stretch

FOLLOWING the two large leaps in interest rates during January, the savings picture has changed considerably. For the first time in a long while bank deposit accounts look competitive with the ordinary share rate at the building society — though not with the enhanced notice account rates — and a new issue of National Savings Certificates, the 30th, is now on sale.

When there are such major changes, bargains are some- times to be had. When rates are on the increase the saver who has a fair sized lump sum to hand would do well to keep an eye on guaranteed income bonds. GIBs are a type of single premium insurance contract, usually requiring a lump sum of at least £1,000. The bond carries a guaranteed rate of income which is paid out typically twice a year over a fixed term, at the end of which the investor gets his original lump sum back.

The beauties of GIBs are that rates are competitive and fixed and that the interest is paid free of basic rate tax. In the week following the second interest rate rise on January 28, a few guaranteed income bonds carried a fixed rate of 10 per cent. Small wonder that these issues were pretty soon snapped up.

The high rate issues last for such a short time because the company offering the bond must strictly match assets and

LOW MINIMUM ACCOUNTS

	Nominal rate	Rate to basic rate taxpayer	Fixed or variable
Clearing bank deposit	11.00	7.70	V
Building society:			
ord. share account	7.50	7.64	V
7-day share account	8.75	8.94	V
National Savings:			
Investment account	12.25	8.58	V
Deposit Bond	12.75	8.93	V
30th issue Certs. (over 5 years)	8.85	8.85	F

HIGH MINIMUM VEHICLES

	Nominal rate	Rate to basic rate taxpayer	Fixed or variable
High interest bank accounts:			
Co-op (min. £1,000)	14.00	10.33	V
Oppenheimer (min. £2,500)	13.25	9.95	V
Clearing bank one month term deposit (min. £10,000)	12.25	8.57	V
Guaranteed income bond (min. £1,000)	9.25	9.25	F

Source: Money Management

liabilities. It will buy a tranche of Government stock due to mature in, say, five years' time.

In a volatile gilt market such as has been seen in the past few weeks, nimble timing means the company can acquire stock at a particularly attractive yield. The asset is now a known quantity: the liability to bond holders must match it.

If the company, therefore, buys a £500,000 tranche of gilts, it can take in the same amount from savers and still be able to guarantee a return.

The size of the tranche bought, and hence the size of the bond issue, will depend on the company's view of the market.

If it feels gilt market rates are liable to get more and more attractive, it will not want to be left with a large bond issue which no longer looks competitive. This is what happened with the recent wave of 10 per cent bonds. In the event, though, the gilt market recovered, producing the available yields. The 10 per cent issues became, for the time being at

least, unrepeatable, and were soon sold out. So the GIB market still looks good for the high minimum investor: as the table shows, the 9.25 per cent rate shown is about the best to be had at present on £1,000 over four years, though 9.5 per cent is available on higher sums over five years. One company, Providence Capital, is still offering 10 per cent on a four year, minimum £10,000, bond.

The moral to investors is to watch for high-rate guaranteed income bond offers, though do check the exact tax position before committing yourself: there are various types of bond, each having different tax implications, and though there is no basic rate tax to pay, bonds may have an adverse effect on age allowance in the year of encashment. Also, because the full return depends on the maturity dates of the underlying gilts, and returns on gilts cannot be guaranteed if they are cashed before maturity, the mid-term surrender values on GIBs are not usually very attractive.

By far the best variable rates for the high minimum investor are those offered on high interest bank accounts. It should be remembered, though, that these fluctuate daily with money market rates and a rate which looks unbeatable now may seem very mediocre in a few weeks' time.

What is the position for the investor who has hundreds, not thousands, to invest? The most obvious fixed rate investment in this sector is the 30th issue of National Savings Certificates, but those interested should remember that they have to leave their money for the full five years to get the top rate of 8.85 per cent; cashed after one year, the issue only yields 6.75 per cent.

As variable returns with few restrictions go, the seven-day building society rates are still hard to beat. Though the National Savings Deposit Bond is worth fractionally more to the basic rate taxpayer, it has a 90-day notice requirement. Incidentally, eagle-eyed readers will notice that the basic rate taxpayer's return on building society accounts appears to be better than the nominal rate. This is because the right hand column shows an effective annual rate which is enhanced because it takes into account the number of times interest is credited.

Christine Stopp

Make a name for yourself at Lloyd's

Why do wealthy people become members of the Lloyd's of London insurance market? In doing so they expose their wealth to huge risks and the possibility of losing everything because, unlike a shareholding in a limited company, there are no limits to the liability of members if losses occur. They are liable right down to their last gold cufflink.

Just what this unlimited liability means, a few famous people are currently finding out. Lloyd's of London is not an insurance company but a market made up of small insurance "companies" called syndicates that specialise in different areas of insurance. One of those syndicates gave its 250 members a nasty shock recently when it announced losses of more than £20 million over a three-year period. Among the famous names who will have to fork out more than £50,000 for every £20,000 of insurance business the syndicate accepted on their behalf over the three years are UK tennis stars Virginia Wade and Mark Cox.

There is another side to the coin, and there is a lot of money to be made out of being a Member of Lloyd's. The main advantage to the wealthy of becoming a Member, however, is the possibility of a second return on existing assets or an income on non-income producing assets.

There are currently about 24,000 Members of Lloyd's or Names as they are known in the market of which just over 20,000 come from the United Kingdom. Each of these Names has to declare personal means of not less than £100,000 which will allow them to accept insurance premiums worth twice their declared means in any one year.

This premium limit is then distributed among the hundreds of Lloyd's underwriting syndicates according to the members' preferences and usually in chunks of £10,000. As international insurance risks grow larger by the day, Lloyd's is worried that it does not have sufficient premium capacity to enable it to grab its fair share of the world insurance market. They are making no secret of the fact that they would like many more wealthy people to join Lloyd's and are also considering amending their membership requirements to make it easier for people, particularly from overseas, to join. One likely change is to lift the present maximum of £50,000 on the amount of business that can be accepted in any one year.

The key to becoming a Name at Lloyd's and getting a return out of otherwise dormant assets is the means test. The £100,000 plus of means can be made up of private assets (excluding principal private residences), farmland, securities quoted on the Stock Exchange, cash at a bank or building society, the surrender value of life policies 70 per cent of the market value of gold, and absolute interests transferred from a trust or an absolute reversionary interest (ie a promised

inheritance legally sown up so that it can't suddenly be given to someone else). Once a Name has declared his means and had them accepted, he is allocated a premium limit of twice his means. Of this premium limit, 25 per cent has to be deposited with Lloyd's in the form of certain highly liquid assets such as cash, gilts, National Savings Certificates or bank guarantees. Therefore a person with a means of £100,000 will have a premium limit of £200,000 and will have to place £50,000 on deposit. In fact, because of some technical provisions covering reinsurance — rather like a bookmaker laying off a very large bet with other bookmakers — the deposit would be less than £50,000.

If the investments that form part of the deposit are income

producing, the income still accrues to the Name while they are on deposit — thus earning money twice over, which is one of the attractions of membership. However, the Name has no access to the capital growth of any assets while they are on deposit except through a special bond that allows them to "buy out" the growth.

Lloyd's, of course, provides a massive flow of invisible earnings so the Government is happy to let the very wealthy have the chance to take advantage of the double earning possibilities of Lloyd's membership without hindrance from extra taxation. There is no such thing as an average syndicate but a moderately good performer of recent years would produce a return of £1,500 per year for every £10,000 of insurance business accepted, an actual return to the Name of about 30 per cent, remembering that the premium limit is twice the means pledged. Add this to the fact that deposited assets are also still earning money from the Name and it is not difficult to see the attraction of Lloyd's membership to the wealthy.

David Worsfold

The day the Inland Revenue robbed the banks

TO financial advisers, April 5 is what December 25 is to shopkeepers. It is the day that butters much of their daily bread for the rest of the year.

The final couple of months of the tax year see an annual flurry of activity by tax accountants as they stretch the loopholes to keep out of the taxman's hands as much of their clients' money as possible.

To non-taxpayers, fiscal year cut-offs come and go much the same as any other dates in the calendar. This year is different and April 5 should be ringed as a day of importance. It is the last day on which bank savers can receive full interest on their money. After that, interest on bank deposits will no longer be paid gross. Instead, tax will be deducted by the banks at a special "composite" rate of 25 per cent.

This will put banks on the same footing as building societies and rob them of the competitive advantage they at present enjoy. Composite

rate tax (CRT), will be deducted from interest paid to non-taxpayers as well as taxpayers.

It means that many thousands of bank savers such as children, students and pensioners will be drawn into the tax net, even if any interest they earn is less than their personal allowances.

If this sounds unfair, there is more to come. No tax paid in this way is recoverable. So for savers who do not otherwise pay tax, banks will join building societies as places to stay away from. But where else is there to go?

For those who still want their interest paid gross the choice is not wide, but there are alternatives. Most people will turn to National Savings. Tax is not payable on interest earned on savings certificates. On deposit bonds, which look a natural haven for bank refugees, interest is credited in full, and the same applies to the NSB's investment account, which is invariably a good home for money.

The snag with the investment account is that a month's notice of withdrawal must be given, though this should pose no problems if a small amount of cash is kept in, say, the NSB ordinary account. In this, the first £70 of interest is tax free, and up to £100 can be withdrawn on demand. In both accounts the minimum deposit is £1.

For the higher paying deposit bonds, the minimum investment is £250, and three months' notice of withdrawal is demanded. Also, interest on any money removed in the first year is halved.

A more sophisticated high street investment is government stock on the National Savings register. More than 50 different securities can be bought through main post offices, and no tax is deducted from the interest paid on any of them. Dividends on bonds bought in any other way are paid net, which gives a distinct advantage to post office purchases, and they are cheaper, too. On purchases up to £250,

only a £1 commission is charged. On each additional £250 there is a further 50p to pay. Selling costs are much the same. Remember, however, that gilts are not totally safe investments. They are traded on the stock market, and the interest quoted in the title of a particular stock remains constant, the value moves up and down, and the actual yield varies accordingly.

Another way of getting gross interest on your savings is to lend to a local authority, though it is a little more roundabout. Tax is deducted at the basic rate of 30 per cent but it can be reclaimed by non-taxpayers. However, there is not much time left to benefit from the present rules. In April, 1986, local authorities, too, will be compelled to deduct composite rate tax.

Meanwhile, savers who do not pay tax should consider a council bond. Good interest rates are paid on money loaned for up to five years, but the relevant term to

obtain a full tax drawback ahead of CRT is one year. Tax will still be reclaimable for the first year on longer loans made by April 5 this year, but spillover periods will be subject to CRT. This applies to existing loans made after November 19, 1984, but loans made previously will be exempt from CRT for the full term.

Interest rates vary from one local authority to another, so it is worth shopping around. This can be tedious but there is a short cut: telephone the Loans Bureau: 01-920 0501 after 3.30pm. The bureau's shopping list costs £2.50 and contains all the current "over the counter" bonds on offer, with sums as low as £500 accessible. It should be remembered that the list will not stay up to date for very long, as local authorities constantly readjust their requirements in the light of changing interest rates.

Also worth more than a passing thought are the guaranteed bonds issued by insurance companies. These

pay interest net of basic rate tax which cannot be recovered, but the net return can, sometimes be better than the gross interest paid on a bank deposit.

These bonds are useful for locking savings into high returns, but the interest rates are starting to fall. Timing is important, and present high interest rates could be setting the scene for a rush into guaranteed bonds.

Keeping tabs on the savings market is a headache for everyone trying to make the most of their spare cash. An easy way is to call the Moneyline service of Chase de Vere Investments (01-673 2343) for a computerised rundown of the best interest rates currently available across the market. Alternatively, have a personal word with Robin Bloor on 01-404 5706 or write to 24 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2.

Loose Business, Cific Services Ltd., 252 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SW1.

Joe Irving

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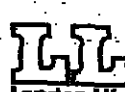
*Based on a man aged 30 next birthday paying an annual premium of £250 for 25 years and assuming bonus rates remain unchanged.



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Ten thousand people retire each week — but only 600 of them will have had employers generous enough to help them prepare for the challenges ahead. Lindsay Cook reports on pre-retirement courses and the companies that provide them.

Is there life after work?

TODAY'S retirement courses range from three days in the luxurious surroundings of a manor house in Kent to a week at a Pouting holiday camp or a few hours in a public hall.

The backgrounds of the participants may be different at these sessions — which cost anything from £50 plus VAT per couple to nothing except the bus fare to get there — money is often the main worry, although the problems may be a little different.

At one course for senior managers, organised by the Pre-Retirement Association, one man discovered that he was "approaching being a millionaire." He hadn't previously realised what he was worth. Much more common is anxiety about managing on a lesser income and all the courses allocate plenty of time to the post-retirement budget.

And as more courses are offered, with Commercial Union and the Prudential recently joining Standard Life, Legal and General and the Pre-Retirement Association in organising counselling, the demand also grows.

When Legal and General held their first Pensions Roadshow, at the end of last year, at the Fairfield Hall in Croydon, so many people arrived that 200 had to be turned away and another session was organised to cater for them. The next free roadshow will be in Maidenhead Town Hall on February 22.

The Pre-Retirement Association reports that they have more forward bookings for their wide range of courses than at any other time in the last seven years.

Most courses organised by the PRA, insurance companies and specialist conference organisers, are aimed at employers. They can either nominate members of staff to attend mixed courses and pay for them to do so, or organise an in-house course.

While the PRA and all the insurance companies will accept individuals who want to pay for themselves, Bill Ruse, director of the PRA, feels employers should be more willing to pay fees, which can be as little as £20 per employee for a two day course.

"As years of employment, it is the least that can be done for employees. I think an employer has the responsibility to give thought to this in plenty of time for workers. Courses should take place at least a year before retirement, so that the staff have time to make financial plans."

Unfortunately most workers facing retirement are given no such help. Of the 10,000 people reaching retirement age each week, only about 600 will have attended a course or session, paid for by their employer, at any stage during their final years of work.

The Pre-Retirement Association, founded 21 years ago, recommends that courses should be held about 18 months before retirement, although they also recognise the merit of earlier planning, when there is still time to make additional voluntary contributions to pension schemes or to move and settle into a smaller house.

The association runs a full range of courses for companies and last summer, in

conjunction with the 30 or so churches in the City of London, they started a series of pre-retirement seminars, starting with a session for member firms of the Stock Exchange. The one-day courses, designed for companies who are not large enough to stage their own, cost £50 plus VAT for each worker and £25 plus VAT for spouse.

Another popular series of courses has been run through the association's magazine, Choice, at a Pouting holiday camp. The week-long pre-retirement courses are run as a special interest holiday and cost less than £100 per person.

Some people are definitely going to be well-prepared for retirement, as they book in every spring and autumn. One man told Mr Bruce that he enjoyed the various leisure activities and liked to catch up on developments in Department of Health and Social Security benefits.

At Legal and General, Keith Hughes has been running pre-retirement courses for six years and regularly organises courses for organisations ranging from the Halifax Building Society to F. W. Woolworth, and numbers some insurance companies among his clients.

The standard retirement programme, lasting between one and three days, is the most popular course. The cost varies according to the number of participants and location but can be £30 a person for two days.

Mixed programmes are run for smaller organisations and individuals can join these for £72, which includes a literature pack worth £9. Senior management are offered a special programme, which has more information on taxation, including capital gains and capital transfer taxes.

The latest addition is the Pensions Roadshow evenings. The next one in Maidenhead has talks on state entitlements, the pension from your employer, and other financial considerations. A financial checklist is provided, together with other free literature, to help people find out how retirement will affect their budgets. Copies of the checklist, a booklet, Planning For Your Retirement, and lists of the mixed course fixtures are available free from Keith Hughes, Retirement Counselling Manager, Legal and General Assurance Society Limited, Kingswood House, Kingswood, Tadworth, Surrey KT20 6GU.

Standard Life run on average four pre-retirement counselling courses every month; they are aimed primarily at employees who are within two years of retirement. Costing £20 plus VAT for a couple and £45 plus VAT for single participants, the delegates are usually drawn from several local employers, although individuals paying for themselves are welcome.

Other courses can be arranged to fit in with the particular needs of an employer but usual topics include pensions, taxation, how to balance the household budget on a reduced income; making a will, the pros and cons of moving house and travel and other concessions for pensioners, plus health problems and likely changes in personal relationships.

The Prudential started pre-

retirement counselling last year and run one-day courses designed for workers who are five to seven years away from retirement, subjects covered include additional voluntary contributions to pension schemes, covenants and making a will, among other things. Their two-day seminars, which cost £100 plus VAT, are intended for those two years away from retirement age and they also have separate early retirement courses. These include sessions on interview techniques, analysing job advertise-

ments, and sources of employment.

Commercial Union is starting a regular schedule of courses from late February at Douces Manor, West Malling, Kent. The three day residential courses are held every month and cost £330 plus VAT for a single employee and £550 plus VAT for a husband and wife.

The courses have been tried out on CU staff, approaching retirement, over the past seven years and are now available for other companies. Individuals can take

up the opportunity for themselves and companies can also organise separate one to five day courses for their own staff.

Sedgwick Personal Finance Management Ltd is now offering individual pre-retirement counselling service, free of charge to anyone who applies. The service was developed for the employees of corporate customers of the insurance broking and financial management organisation and was extended to the general public at the end of January.

In addition Sedgwick organises courses for companies. A morning session on finance for 24 to 30 people nearing retirement is to cost a London company £375 but prices vary according to the length of course, numbers attending and location.

The company also has a free booklet on planning for a successful retirement, which is available from The Sedgwick Centre, London E1 8DX. The Pre-Retirement Association is at 19 Undine Street, London SW17 8PP. 01-767 3225.

Second option

THE WORLD of building societies is changing rapidly and may change even faster if secondary mortgages become widespread in the UK. A secondary mortgage is created when one company arranges a home loan but a different company then buys and holds the loan.

This is commonplace in the United States and some institutions would like to import the practice. But, the Building Societies Association argues that this is exceedingly unlikely.

There is logic behind dividing the business of mortgages in two: to sell home loans needs easy access to customers and a wide branch network, but to hold a loan requires large amounts of money. If the institution initiating the loans sells it to another, it makes more money with which to make additional loans.

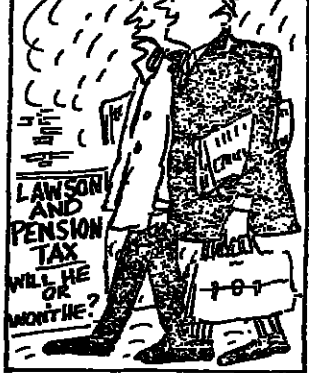
There is an enormous secondary mortgage market in America — in the last few years between a quarter and a half of all new loans have subsequently been traded — for three reasons: the ban preventing banking institutions from crossing state boundaries; companies developing different talents; and, most importantly, the compulsory fixed rate mortgage.

Until 1981, institutions were obliged to pay variable rates of interest for money which they could lend at only a fixed rate.

None of these factors applies in the UK but some people believe that there is potential for a secondary mortgage market. But, as the market is diminishing in the United States, it is unlikely to develop significantly. However, the BSA sees scope for institutions with

retail outlets, such as building societies, estate agents, insurance brokers and banks, to concentrate more on arranging and servicing loans and for financial institutions looking for an outlet for their funds to build a mortgage portfolio managed by a bank or a building society.

Lending on homes is the safest form of lending, partly



"I'm hoping for a fairy tale ending and we all live happily ever after."

because of the tax relief and the availability of supplementary benefit to meet the interest payments in cases of hardship. Thus, many insurance companies, pension funds and foreign banks would like to include this in their portfolios.

However they would not want the bother of dealing with customers so, when the building society legislation is changed, societies could offer this service since their capacity to arrange loans far exceeds their capacity to hold them. Margaret Dibben

PREMIUM ACCESS ACCOUNT (2nd Issue)

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	BRADFORD & BINGLEY	YOUR BUILDING SOCIETY
NET INTEREST PA	9.00%	
GROSS INTEREST PA	12.86%	
WITHDRAWAL NOTICE	IMMEDIATE	
INTEREST LOST	No Penalty	
EXTRA INTEREST	1.50%	
MINIMUM INVESTMENT PERIOD	None	

Interest rates are variable and assume income tax paid at 30%. Interest is calculated daily and added to the account annually.

In brief

Going up

HIGH INTEREST accounts are increasingly becoming the flavour of the month. Barclays Bank is starting one on March 18 for a minimum deposit of £1,000. The interest rate has not been decided yet but it will be higher than the normal deposit rate.

NatWest's highly successful Special Reserve Account, launched in January, pays 12.75 per cent gross for a minimum of £2,000 and now the Alliance Building Society has produced the Alliance Premier Account paying 9.5 per cent net which is equivalent to 13.57 per cent gross.

The 2 per cent differential at the Alliance is guaranteed for a year from the date of investment and the minimum investment is £1,000.

Rate changes

BANKS and building societies have started tinkering with the differentials they charge on larger mortgages. In this period of high interest rates, the money is coming in from savers faster than buyers want to borrow. NatWest has cut its endorsement mortgage rate by 0.5 per cent to 13.375 per cent and Bristol and West has brought down the higher rates.

Midland Bank this week increase the mortgage rate by 1 per cent to 13.5 per cent at all levels.

Bradford & Bingley's Premium Access Account offers you extra interest. Without any of the extra strings.

As long as you keep £1,000 in your account, you receive 9.00% net annual interest. This rate is variable and is currently 1.5% above nominal Ordinary Account Rate, but is not linked to it.

You can also withdraw money on demand, without paying any penalties.

Should your balance fall below £1,000 you still receive the nominal Ordinary Account Rate. The maximum investment is £30,000 but

this doubles to £60,000 for a joint account. There's no obligation to invest for any length of time either.

So if you are interested in getting more for your money, take a look at Bradford & Bingley's incomparable terms.

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WITH INCREASING INCOME FACILITY

27.8%
per year

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3 UNIT TRUSTS

M&G
SUNDAY TELEGRAPH
UNIT TRUST
GROUP OF THE YEAR

Most successful investors start with a clear idea of whether they want income or growth or a balance between the two. Individual unit trusts can meet each of these requirements, but the problem is knowing which to choose from over seven hundred unit trusts.

Before making an investment in a unit trust you should expect the managers to tell you how well it has performed over the long term. Past performance cannot be a guarantee for the future, but it is the best measure you have of a fund's likelihood of achieving its objective. New funds or funds which suffer a change of management are more of a gamble than those which can point to a long and successful record.

We are currently offering three M&G Funds which satisfy the three requirements of income, growth, or a balance between the two. Each has a performance record demonstrating the success of M&G's investment policy over many years. As an incentive we are offering an extra 1% unit allocation if you invest £1,000 or more and 2% if you invest £10,000 or more.

Unit trusts are for long-term investment and not suitable for money you may need at short notice. This is because the price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up.

Income DIVIDEND FUND

An investor of £10,000 at the fund's launch in May 1964 has seen his income after basic-rate tax grow from £396 in the first full year to £2,018 in 1984.

By contrast, a building society investor's annual income has fluctuated, rising from £536 in 1965 to £1,200 in 1980 and then falling back to £853 by 1984. So anyone who depended on a building society for income has suffered a cut-back over the past 4 years, whilst Dividend Fund investors continued to enjoy a steadily increasing income.

In addition, the Dividend Fund investor's £10,000 had grown to £54,300 by the end of December 1984 compared with £27,271 from a similar notional investment in the F.T. Industrial Ordinary Index and £10,000 in a building society deposit which, of course, remained unchanged.

If you need income which will grow over the years M&G Dividend Fund could be your ideal investment, because we will continue to make income growth the prime objective. The Fund invests in a wide range of ordinary shares and the aim is to provide a high and growing return with a yield about 50% higher than that of the F.T. Actuaries All-Share Index.

COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE TABLE of £10,000 invested at the launch of M&G Dividend Fund on 5th May 1964, compared with a similar investment in a Building Society			
Year to 31 DECEMBER	M&G DIVIDEND	BUILDING SOCIETY	M&G DIVIDEND
5 May '64	—	—	£10,000
1965	£396	£536	£10,200
1970	463	650	10,760
1975	828	871	16,300
1980	1,620	1,200	24,280
1984	2,018	853	54,300

NOTES All income figures shown are net of basic-rate tax. The Building Society income figures are 10% above the average of the rates offered in each year (source: Building Societies Association). M&G Dividend capital figures are all realisation values.

On 13th February 1985 offered prices and estimated gross current yields were:

	Income	Accumulation	Yield
Dividend Fund	239 3p	239 3p	5.2%
Recovery Fund	239 3p	239 3p	4.13%
SECOND General	533 6p	1012 3p	3.83%

Prices and yields appear daily in the Financial Times. An initial charge of 5% is included in the offered price and an annual charge of up to 1% of each fund's value - currently 0.4% - plus 1% is deducted from gross income (currently 1% for Dividend increasing to 1.5% in September 1985). Income for Accumulation units is reinvested to increase the value of the units. The fund's income is distributed net of basic-rate tax on the following dates:

	Dividend	Recovery	SECOND
Distributions	15 Jan	20 Feb	15 Feb
	15 July	20 Aug	15 Aug
Next distribution for new investors	15 July 1985	20 Aug 1985	15 Aug 1985

You can buy or sell units on any business day. Contracts for purchase or sale will be due for settlement two to three weeks later. Remuneration is payable to accredited agents; rates are available on request. The Trustee for Dividend and Recovery is Barclays Bank Trust Co Limited and for SECOND is Lloyd's Bank Plc. The Funds are all widely ranging investments and are authorised by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

M&G Securities Limited, Three Quays, Tower Hill, London EC3R 6BQ. Tel: 01-626 4588. Member of the Unit Trust Association.

Growth RECOVERY FUND

M&G Recovery Fund is probably the most successful unit trust ever launched. The table below shows just how well it has achieved its aim of capital growth over the long term. The Fund buys the shares of companies which have fallen on hard times. Losses must be expected when a company fails to recover but the effect of a turnaround can be dramatic.

COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE TABLE of £10,000 invested at the launch of M&G Recovery Fund on 23rd May 1968, with net income reinvested			
Year to 31 DECEMBER	M&G RECOVERY	F.T. ORDINARY INDEX	BUILDING SOCIETY
23 May '68	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
1970	11,760	8,570	11,058
1975	26,400	11,121	21,283
1980	102,560	17,287	40,175
1984	214,720	39,977	52,405

NOTES All figures include reinvested income net of basic-rate tax. The Building Society figures are based on an end-of-year account offering 10% above the average yearly rate (source: Building Societies Association). M&G Recovery figures are all realisation values.

Balanced SECOND GENERAL

M&G SECOND General Trust Fund aims for growth of both capital and income and has a 28-year performance record which is second to none. It has a wide spread of shares mainly in British companies, which are kept under constant review.

COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE TABLE of £10,000 invested at the launch of M&G SECOND General on 5th June 1956, with net income reinvested			
Year to 31 DECEMBER	M&G SECOND	F.T. ORDINARY INDEX	BUILDING SOCIETY
5 June '56	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
1960	19,534	20,080	11,293
1965	31,947	26,230	13,492
1970	47,537	30,540	17,143
1975	81,843	39,620	33,107
1980	200,813	61,600	62,494
1984	463,879	142,410	81,519

NOTES All figures include reinvested income net of basic-rate tax. The Building Society figures are based on an end-of-year account offering 10% above the average yearly rate (source: Building Societies Association). M&G SECOND General figures are all realisation values.

SPECIAL OFFER CLOSES 5th APRIL

To: M&G SECURITIES LIMITED, THREE QUAYS, TOWER HILL, LONDON EC3R 6BQ. All applications received by 5th April, 1985, will be given an extra 1% allocation of units. This will increase to 2% for applications of £10,000 or more per fund. Please invest the sum(s) indicated below in the Fund(s) of my choice (minimum investment in each Fund: £1,000) in ACCUMULATION/INCOME units (delete as applicable or Accumulation units will be issued) at the price ruling on receipt of this application.

DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY. A contract note will be sent to you stating exactly how much you owe and the settlement date. Your certificate will follow shortly.

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TU 360715	

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Registered in England No. 90776 Reg. Office as above. The offer is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

Alice Lloyd reports on an unusual auction in which canny punters vie for unwanted insurance policies — and gamble on human mortality

Making a bid for life

ONE of the strangest forms of investment around must be buying second-hand insurance policies — which means taking a gamble on how long the original owner is going to live.

For nearly 150 years the City firm of H. E. Foster and Crumfield have been auctioning insurance policies and interests in trust funds in decent obscurity. The tiny handful of people who attend the auctions held about every five weeks in the Connaught Rooms in London's Covent Garden are not keen to see their particular brand of investment popularised for fear of sending prices soaring.

Reasons for selling life insurance policies vary: financial hardship leads people (or their banks) to try to get their hands on their funds which are tied up in policies, while others want the cash immediately for some other purpose.

The crux of the matter is that the cash-in value of an endowment policy is meagre compared with the bonuses that will be paid out if the policy is allowed to run its full term.

So, rather than accept the surrender value from the insurance company, the policy holder sends the policy to auction.

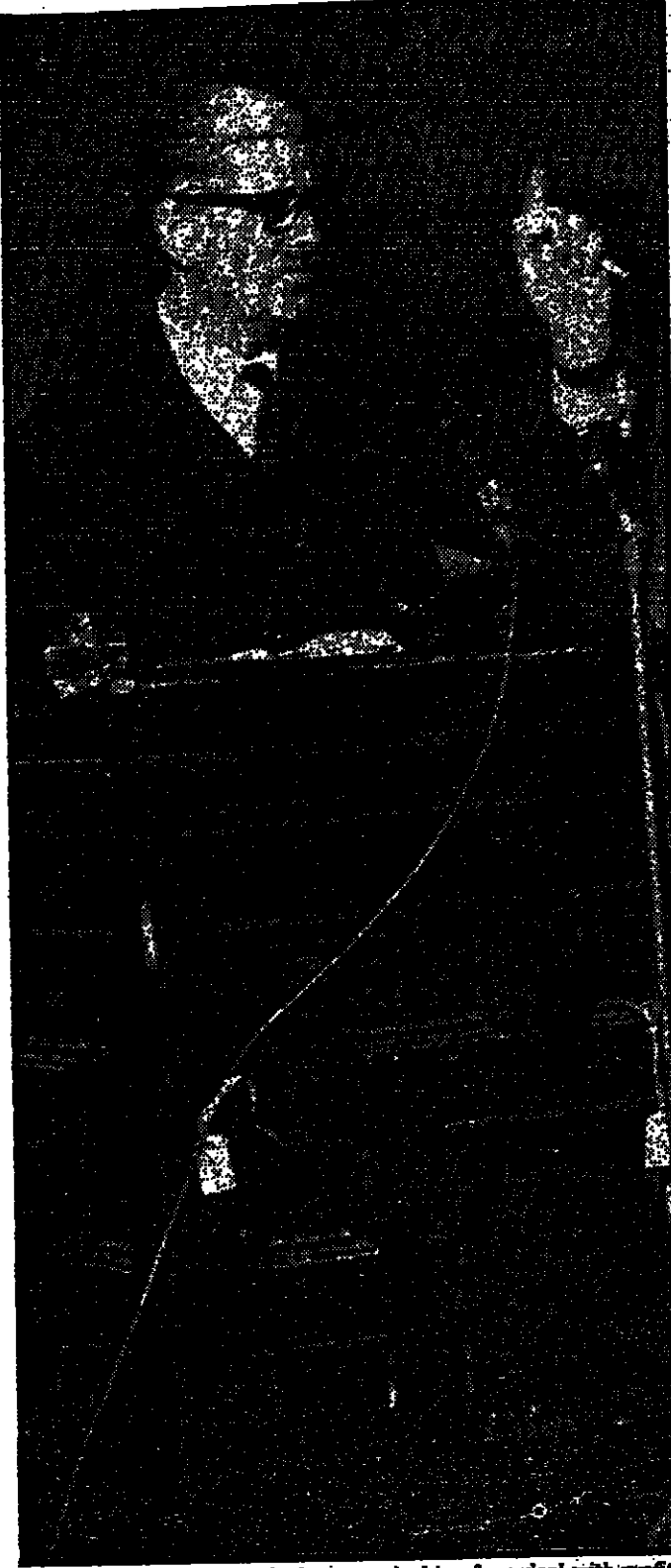
Naturally the bidding starts above the surrender value because that is the minimum amount the buyer can get out of the policy. For instance, Lot 7 of the nine lots auctioned last week was a with-profits endowment policy of £2,500 taken out in August 1978 "on the life of a gentleman now aged 46". The policy has just over 10 years to run and the purchaser is liable for the annual premiums of £190.92. The surrender value was £2,587.12. But the paid up assurance including existing bonuses already totals £3,890 and Scottish Life are currently paying terminal bonuses of 55 per cent.

The bidding started at £2,600 and the two or three bidders gradually pushed up the price to £3,300. The buyer, a retired farmer's son from Cheshire, has made quite a hobby out of studying the form of insurance companies. He bids only for policies written by companies near the top of the bonus league such as Clerical Medical, Standard Life, and Scottish Widows.

"There is a risk factor that the bonuses may fall because the ending of L.A.P.R. (Life Assurance Premium Relief) means that fewer people are buying policies. But this is a betting game," he said.

Bidders have to estimate how much they will receive and how long they will have to wait for it. With an endowment policy they have to bet on whether the "life" is going to last until the end of the term so all the bonuses are paid out or whether the original policy-holder will die early.

But, with an interest in a trust fund or a so-called whole life policy which pays out



Under the hammer: looking for a deal with profits

only on death, the bidder stands to win from an early death and hence an early payout.

This is the prime reason that the "lives" are never identified. Holding an insurance policy on another's life could be a motive for murder. The buyers keep tabs on their life by getting the names of two referees who are usually friends of the life and writing to them about once a year. The form is to ask politely if the life is still living at the same address, although the real inquiry is whether he is still alive.

There have been cases in which the owner of a second-hand insurance policy did not find out about the death of the life insured until years after the event. In some cases the insurance company will pay interest on the outstanding payment, and in others they will make an ex-gratia payment.

Mr Guy Enriquez, who has been bringing down his little white hammer on other people's life policies for more than 20 years, said bidders expect a return of 8 to 10 per cent on their outlay. "It's a solid investment. You can't go

wrong with a first-class insurance company."

People do not expect young men to fade out before their environment policy matures, and they do not reckon that the elderly will out-perform the actuary's life expectancy tables by too great a margin. But even these events do sometimes occur to unbalance the calculations.

The holders of second-hand policies have been unaffected by the demise of L.A.P.R. — except as it affects the fortunes of the insurance companies and in turn the bonuses they pay out — as they were never entitled to this tax relief.

Lot 1 in the sale was a third of a trust fund valued at £26,000 being sold by the official receiver because of bankruptcy. The bankrupt's mother is the life tenant of the fund and receives the entire income from the fund. The assets will be divided only when this lady, now aged 57, dies.

The bidding started at £10,000 and crept up in £50 jumps to £2,100. The man who bought it said his motivation was to reduce his liability to capital gains tax. The tax is paid at the deceased person's rate, so the fund can be passed straight on to children or grandchildren without extra tax being paid on it.

Purchasers of second-hand policies can use them as collateral for loans in exactly the same way as the original holder. The buyers reckon on holding their investments to maturity but, just like the original holder, they can surrender their interest and put the policy back into the auction. There is no buyer's premium and sellers pay between one and five per cent commission.

Foster and Crumfield will bid on behalf of established clients but not for newcomers — they must attend the auction in person.

The lots all have reserve prices and lot three in last week's auction failed to make the reserve and was withdrawn. The bidding for a £15,700 endowment policy on a 55-year-old gentleman and his 25-year-old wife with a surrender value of £10,203.80, started at £10,500 but only edged up to £11,500 in spite of Mr Enriquez's entreaties: "Can I tempt you, sir, or you, or you?" The policy matures in six years, the annual premium is £1,470.06 and the Prudential Assurance Company are currently paying terminal bonuses of 18 per cent and ordinary bonuses already amount to £4,308.98. Although the policy was withdrawn from the auction it will probably be sold privately to one of Foster and Crumfield's clients.

Auction catalogues are sent out about a week before the sale to ensure that the valuations are up to date. Foster and Crumfield will help prospective bidders by giving them an estimate of the price each lot is likely to fetch.

£20 A MONTH CAN ACCUMULATE A LOT OF MONEY

If you had chosen fifteen years ago to save £20 a month in a building society, and had left the interest to accumulate, by 1st January 1985 your total outlay of £3,600 would have built up to £7,196. On the other hand, if you had chosen to save the same amount each month in one of our larger unit trusts, M&G SECOND General Trust Fund, you would have built up an investment worth £15,320, an extra £8,124.

You can start an M&G Unit Trust Savings Plan with as little as £20. You need not subscribe regularly but we strongly recommend that you do so, by completing the Bankers Order form, by saving a regular amount you make fluctuations in the stockmarket work to your advantage because more units are bought when their price is low than when it is high.

Unit Trusts are an excellent method of investing in the various stockmarkets of the world, and are ideal for regular investment over the longer term. They are not suitable for money you may need at short notice.

The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up.

Your Savings Plan subscriptions go into Accumulation units of the Fund you choose and income is reinvested automatically after basic-rate tax. Further details of the Funds and

the rules of the plan are available on request. All the Funds are wide-range securities and are authorised by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

The only charges are those you normally pay with unit trusts — 5% included in the initial price of units and up to 1% annually (currently limited to 0.4% for management). There are no extra charges for this Savings Plan.

You can vary the amount you pay and you are free to cash in your accumulated investment, or part of it, at any time without penalty.

The securities in a unit trust are held in safe custody by the Trustee (one of the major banks). You can follow the progress of your plan by looking up the price of units and the current yield in the Financial Times or other leading newspapers. You buy units at the "offer" price and sell at the "bid" price.

The minimum age for the Unit Trust Savings Plan is 14, but accounts for younger children can be opened in the name of an adult and designated with the child's full name.

Source: Planned Savings.

All performance figures include income reinvested net of basic-rate tax. The figures for the M&G Funds are "bid" prices. You should remember that past performance is no guarantee for the future.

Amount paid in

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84 MONTHS

96 MONTHS

108 MONTHS

120 MONTHS

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144 MONTHS

156 MONTHS

168 MONTHS

180 MONTHS

192 MONTHS

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Please pay to National Westminster Bank Plc, 131 Molesworth Street, Chalfont St Giles, Bucks HP8 4NL, the sum of £ _____ on the _____ day of _____ 19____ and continue to pay that amount on the _____ day of _____ 19____

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SIGNATURE

DATE

Signature of Enrollee: 90776

This offer is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland

Signature: _____

DATE

Signature: _____

TO: M&G SECURITIES LTD, THREE QUAYS, TOWER HILL, LONDON EC3R 6BQ

I WISH TO SUBSCRIBE £ _____ (min £20)

each month to the M&G Unit Trust Savings Plan and I enclose a cheque (made payable to M&G Securities Limited) for my first subscription of £ _____ (you may wish to start your plan with a lump sum).

I wish my subscriptions to be invested in the Fund circled.

If no Fund is circled your plan will be funded to M&G SECOND.

AMERICAN & GEN. INTERNATIONAL

AUSTRALASIAN JAPAN & GEN.

COMPOUND GROWTH MIDLAND

DIVIDEND RECOVERY

GENERAL SECOND

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The units will be registered in the name of M&G Securities Limited and held for your account under the rules of the plan.

If the Savings Plan account is being opened for the benefit of a child, please fill in here the full name of the child.

I understand that further subscriptions can be made at any time (minimum £20) and that I can realise my holding on any business day without penalty at the bid price ruling.

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DATE

Signature of Enrollee: 90776

This offer is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland

Signature: _____

DATE

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So, if you've £10,000 or more to invest you'll not do better than the Skipton. You'll get extra interest (9.70% equal to 13.86%) and you can pay in or withdraw anytime, without penalty, just like an ordinary Building Society account.

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Monthly Interest is available paid directly to your bank on balances over £2,500 at 9.35% equal to 13.36%.

It's easy to open a Sovereign account. Simply call at your nearest Skipton branch or just send your cheque with the coupon.

From then on you can pay in or withdraw by post, whenever you wish and we'll pay the postage.

Please complete in block capitals. Tick where appropriate.

☐ I/We wish to open a Sovereign Account and enclose a cheque for £ _____ (Max. £30,000. Joint Account £60,000).

☐ I/We wish to open a Sovereign Monthly Interest Account and enclose a cheque for £ _____ (Max. £30,000. Joint Account £60,000).

☐ Cheques should be made payable to Skipton Building Society.

☐ Please send me more details.

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The price paid for theft

YOUR MONEY LETTERS

answered by Margaret Dibben

I WAS stupidly involved in a shoplifting offence two years ago and received a conditional discharge because I was clearly unwell at the time. I am now considering buying a house but am unable to get house insurance. My only option is to purchase a house without insurance as no insurance company will insure me. As my offence was for under ten pounds and I was unwell at the time I find it ridiculous that I am being treated like one of the great train robbers. Could you please help? — A.S., Glasgow.

A MAJOR insurance company we spoke to said that on the face of it they would be prepared to insure someone in your situation, assuming there were no other relevant facts, such as earlier convictions, to be taken into account. They are probably typical among the large insurance groups, though a small insurance company might take a tougher attitude. Our advice is to shop around a bit more.

In control

IT SEEMS that building societies force their own buildings insurance schemes on borrowers on the grounds that their substantial interest in the house means they must maintain control. I have access to a staff insurance scheme, but my building society has so far been unwilling to let me insure the house through it, though it uses a leading insurer, which is even offered by the building society as one of their alternatives. I therefore have to pay 50 per cent more than I need to for buildings insurance. Is the society entitled to do this? — P. N., Basildon.

I AM afraid the answer is yes. However, many societies will accept insurance policies

other than their own, provided they give the same level of cover as the society's own scheme. If you are getting a particularly cheap deal on your staff scheme, it may be that some details of the cover are less generous than the society block policy. If, as far as you can see, the level of cover is the same, you should go back and argue your case again with the society, who will probably make a charge for looking into your staff scheme themselves.

Stay or go?

A FEW months from my 62nd birthday, I have been offered early retirement with an under-linked pension of £4,200 and a lump redundancy sum of £27,500. Allowing for a 4 per cent annual salary increase, I estimate that if I stay at work until I am 65 I will receive a pension of about £5,800 plus a lump sum of £21,700. What should I do? — F.G.C., Bangor, Co. Down.

On purely financial grounds you will clearly be better off staying at work. Your salary increases over the next three years are more likely than not to average out higher than the inflation rate added to your pension. As to your fear that lump sums from pensions may be taxed, the insurance company has already intimated that money already earned is safe. This means that only the proportion of the sum related to the years from April next to your retirement should be affected, if indeed there is any intention at all to tax lump sums in the forthcoming budget.

Last rites

THERE must be many like me who are endeavouring to stretch our fixed income by investing for a monthly income. My main anxiety at present is that my daughter may be able to get the cash for burial expenses. As it appears that about £500 is required for burial would it be simpler to donate my body to medical science? — B.P., Ealing.

Your simplest solution, though it does involve a small outlay, is to take out a life



"You realise of course that if our mortgage goes up again we shall no longer be able to afford to run our oil-fired central heating."

policy to cover burial expenses. The sort of policy to go for is a whole life non-profit policy, which should be written in trust for the benefit of your daughter. You do not tell me your age, so I have taken as an example a 65-year-old woman. You may find that some life companies will not insure you for such a small sum. The sample quotation I received came from Equitable Life, who would charge a premium of £2.11 a month for this sort of cover, with a £500 sum assured.

Freelance rate

I HAVE retired for health reasons at the age of 35 with a pension of £3,500. I hope to earn between £3,000 and £5,000 doing freelance work. What National Insurance contributions will I pay and on what basis will I be taxed? — A. W. N16.

YOU will probably be classed as self-employed and will pay Class 2 contributions which do not qualify for unemployment benefit. If your profits exceed a certain amount (£3,950 in the current tax year) you will also have to pay Class 4 contributions. These are 9.3 per cent of your profits between £3,950 and £13,000. You will be taxed on income remaining after you have deducted allowable expenses such as heating, lighting, stationery, postage, etc. You should contact your local tax and DHSS offices at once.

Capital gains

I AM 61 and am a landlord. I have a £20,000 mortgage on the house I live in. I occupy a quarter of the house and rent the rest which is converted into flats. In the same district I own a self-contained flat which I also rent and which I am considering selling. I am concerned about capital gains but I believe that people in my position who are over 60 pay less capital gains tax. Please can you tell me if this is so and if possible can you say what the difference is? I would also like to ask about "rollover relief". If I sold the separate flat would it be considered as "rollover relief" if I paid off the mortgage on the house and/or spent some of the money on improving the flats in the house? — M.H., London NW3.

THE first point here is that the relief available to elderly taxpayers (known misleadingly as "retirement relief", s124 CGTA 1979) once they reach the age of 60 is normally available only against gains on the disposal of a

business or shares in a family company. If you are renting out the flat qualifies as holiday letting then you would be able to claim retirement relief. Retirement relief is not available against disposals of any other assets. Secondly, the "rollover relief" you refer to is only available on the reinvestment of the proceeds of a disposal in a replacement business asset and can only be claimed by businesses (s115 CGTA 1979). Since your letting seems unlikely to constitute a business, you are under the holiday letting rules you are unable to claim either of these reliefs.

Curtain raiser

I PLAN to stage a play at the Edinburgh Festival for a week in August. I hope to break even, but what is the tax position if the play makes a profit? Should I register as a company for the week? — M.S., Edinburgh.

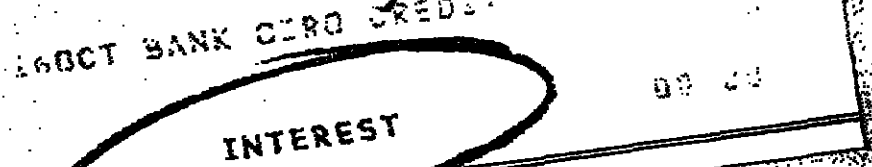
ANY profit the play makes will be liable to tax — as a registered company to corporation tax. In your case the tax would almost certainly be charged at the small companies rate of 30 per cent, the same rate as basic income tax. You mention that you work only part-time on a project with the Manpower Services Commission. If you have some unused personal allowance you will be better off taxed as an individual.

Legacy plans

MY husband died in 1983 and as he owned our house and we held jointly and left to me, no charges were incurred. However, with a house valued at about £70,000, and investments of a similar amount, I believe there would be a considerable amount to pay on my death. As I intend to leave all to my children, would a discretionary trust be the best solution? (I note, what is the best solution? I am 68. — M. T., Cheshire.

YOU have not given me many details to work on, but from what you have said, it sounds as if a combination of an annuity and a whole life policy might suit your needs. It works like this: you use part of your assets to buy an annuity. Your estate is reduced by the amount used, but you are assured of an income during your lifetime. At the same time, you take out a whole life policy with a sum assured equal to the amount used to buy the annuity. The policy is written in trust for your beneficiaries, which removes the policy benefits from the CTT net. The premiums will not be regarded as chargeable transfers providing they remain within the annual £3,000 exempt limit.

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10 years	11.5	10 p.p.	1	At notice
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Weekend Money is edited by Margaret Dibben

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WEEK-END GARDENING

When it's February on the surface, it's still December one foot down

Alan Gemmell delves into the mysteries of soil temperatures — and comes up with some useful hints for the weekend gardener

build-up of soil temperature would be quicker not only at the surface but also deeper down. Not only would each day start from a higher level but there would be more heat available to be conducted downwards. The best way to reduce re-radiation is to cover the soil surface with a material which allows light through but keeps heat in. For this purpose we use sheets of transparent plastic, and arrange them along the areas where the drills for seeds will be.

But because of the slow rate of conduction in soil, heat will not have penetrated to any depth at all unless the protection of the soil surface has been there well before the seed is sown. It will take two or three weeks for the surface soil protection to produce a clear effect two to four inches down. That is the area of soil

into which the young roots will speedily penetrate, and if the environment there is right, then the crop will grow steadily, which can make a significant difference in the time of its maturity. The gain in temperature may only be of the order of two degrees, but that is enough to speed growth.

One biological fact is on the side of all gardeners that the temperature needed for seed germination is normally higher than that for root growth. So as soon as the seed germinates, we can be sure it is warm enough for growth, but only at the point where the seed has been. Once the roots grow down a little, they leave that balmy hospitable area and go into colder climes unless you have protected the surface, thus making sure that the heat is not lost but is available for better growth.

Odd jobbing

WITH the snow several inches deep, I tend to give extra attention to plants in more congenial surroundings. I brought my last bowls of crocuses and hyacinths into the house last week. They have excellent root systems and their fat shoots are full of promise. I turn the pots 90 degrees each day to discourage a leaning habit. This is particularly important with potted hyacinths which often have difficulty supporting their laden flower heads. I keep the bulbs on my cooler windowsills to prolong their beauty. I still have two pots of scilla in the garage. About a third of the shoots are showing above the compost, so I shall leave them yet awhile.

Young African violet was growing away strongly

until last week. Then the leaves lost their healthy lustre and I searched for the cause. No aphids were in evidence but the compost was positively soggy. The excitement of the first rich purple flowers has gone to my watering can and I had been drowning my poor plant. All too easily done in winter. Fortunately there is as yet no sign of the dreaded rot so all is not lost. African violets are attractive little plants, flowering all the year round. They are quite particular about temperature, needing 15-19 degrees C for active growth. They need high humidity and a weak feed at each watering. I hereby resolve that "each watering" of mine will be a little less often.

HILARY APPEGATE



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Tory Party chief launches
attack on 'unfair' US policiesThatcher to take
tough line with
Reagan on dollarBy Patrick Kestley,
Diplomatic Correspondent

Mrs Thatcher will take a strong line on the problems faced by America's European allies because of the high US budget deficit and the rocketing dollar when she meets President Reagan at the White House next Wednesday.

Plans for her two-day Washington visit, announced last night, indicate that she is determined to focus on a broad range of economic issues, starting with the unresolved problem of high US interest rates.

President Reagan pledged at the London economic summit last June to do something about it, but has so far failed to deliver.

The Conservative Party chairman, Mr John Gummer, took up the same theme in an outspoken speech to American correspondents in London yesterday, accusing the US of unfair economic strategies which boost the dollar at the expense of its West European allies.

Mr Gummer declared:

"America is importing the savings of the rest of the world, and exporting the inflation. This is a very serious matter."

In his attack, Mr Gummer, referring to the soaring dollar and the lack of any sign of a change in US budget deficit and interest rate policies, said: "This is not just a question of fairness. It is a question of survival. It is very unfair if you use your strength, not to make other people stronger, but to make them weaker."

"One has to say candidly to your friends — you don't be-

come strong by our weakness. We are all in favour of the market finding its level, but we are also in favour of properly priced currencies. At the moment, sterling, the West German mark and the Swiss franc are undervalued and the American dollar is overvalued."

On Thursday Mrs Thatcher is to see the head of the US Federal Reserve Board, Mr Paul Volcker.

With her in Washington will be the Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, and the Defence Secretary, Mr Michael Heseltine, who will meet their US counterparts at the White House. The agenda will cover the whole defence spectrum, including Star Wars, in the context of the new US-Soviet arms talks next month.

In NATO capitals in Europe attention will be focused on the defence part of the Washington talks. Growing anxiety about the underlying strategy of the Pentagon has not been calmed by this week's lobbying by colleagues of the US Defence Secretary, Mr Caspar Weinberger.

European leaders are most concerned by the risk of decoupling between the US and its NATO partners, if the Star Wars missile defence system goes into production and deployment unilaterally with the US.

Mrs Thatcher returned from a stopover in Washington in December declaring that she was satisfied that the Reagan Administration would not go ahead unilaterally with Star Wars, but would keep its allies informed.

Ex-MI5 men helped hunt for Dikko

By David Fallister

The private London detective agency which was hired to find the fugitive Nigerian politician, Umaru Dikko, before he was kidnapped last year employs former officials from MI5.

The agency, Argon International Security Consultants, has offices in Chelsea and is run by Mr John Fairer Smith. In 1971, he was named in the House of Commons as the leader of a South African spy network in Britain.

There is no suggestion that Argon knew why it was being asked to find Mr Dikko. According to Mr Fairer Smith's solicitor yesterday, the company was approached by a client who said that Mr Dikko was being sought over a civil

matter concerning debt collection. As the company did not carry out such work, he said that the job was contracted out to two "independent consultants". They found Mr Dikko on June 30 and reported back to Argon which, in turn, told its clients.

The Special Branch certainly knew that Mr Dikko arrived in Britain as a visitor at Luton airport on June 20 — only 20 days before he was found. On the day of the kidnapping it was the Special Branch who were able to tell the Anti-Terrorist Squad exactly who Mr Dikko was, and why he was important.

Police sources say the client was an American security firm which had first been employed — when Mr Dikko was in the US — by a com-

pany with business interests in Nigeria. The information, however, was swiftly passed to one of the kidnappers, Alexander Barak, an Israeli who recruited the kidnap team through his contacts with Mossad, the Israeli intelligence service. Mr Dikko was snatched five days later.

The two "consultants" who are believed to be ex-police officers, told the police of their innocent involvement when news of the kidnap broke. Mr Fairer Smith was interviewed by the police, who accepted that he had undertaken the work without realising what was to happen to Mr Dikko.

But because of Mr Fairer Smith's long-standing relationship with the British security services it is likely that MI5

officers were aware that Mr Dikko was being sought. It is unlikely that they did not know he was in the country, as a significant irritant to Anglo-Nigerian relations.

Mr Fairer Smith, a former member of the Rhodesian Special Branch, claims that he has severed his association with the South African security services.

Mr Fairer Smith set up Argon in 1968 after he had been in Britain for eight years. In 1971, after a programme on BBC TV, Mr James Wellbeloved, the Labour MP, said in the Commons that Mr Fairer Smith had been the controller of a South African agent who had stolen Cabinet papers on Rhodesian sanctions. The agent, Norman Blackburn, was sentenced to five

years in prison and claimed that he had also been employed to infiltrate southern African liberation movement offices in London. The Government refused to act, despite pressure from MPs for an inquiry.

Argon has offices in Cologne, New York and Antwerp, and offers services from "confidential investigations" to "electronic counter-measures" and "industrial counter-espionage".

Five years ago it was revealed that five former members of the Special Boat Squadron, the Royal Marines equivalent of the SAS, had been employed by Argon to train a special anti-terrorist unit for the Basque regional government.

Synod
'fails
to give
lead on
cruise'By Martin Halsall,
Churches Correspondent

The Church of England's General Synod was accused yesterday of failing to give a lead on the nation after it had filibustered in a debate on cruise and Trident missiles.

Both archbishops supported the decision, by 159 votes to 152, to suspend the debate. But last night a renewed challenge to the Government's nuclear weapons policy was under consideration in an initiative led by the Bishop of Salisbury, Dr John Baker.

The effect of the synod's vote was to leave the Church without a policy on nuclear weapons and the debate is unlikely to be resumed. In 1983 the synod confronted the Government and NATO by voting for "no first use" of nuclear weapons.

Mr Paul Johns, chairman of Christian CND, said yesterday's debate: "The synod has failed to give a moral lead to the nation. It ought to be ashamed of itself. Many people were looking to the Church, and the Church has let them down."

This was ironic when a cruise missile convoy was on Salisbury Plain. Mr Johns will present a petition on Wednesday at Downing Street. Signed by more than 15,000 people opposing Trident, it includes many church leaders.

Bishop Baker said the Church needed to ask the Government sharp questions about nuclear weapons. "This is much more important than playing amateur strategists and putting forward policy packages."

"We would be giving all the wrong signals if we did nothing more. It is essential that we pursue a new line. I should be bitterly disappointed if this debate was taken as saying: 'We are not prepared to discuss these things'."

The church and the bomb remain, he claimed, the central issue of the synod's decision. It is 1983 "have had no discernible effect on the policy of this country and very little on public attitudes". He wanted the church to make a public debate with the Government, which often gave "very thin and inadequate answers" to his questions.

Canon Christopher Hall, vicar of Bolton, proposed to the synod that the Government should not add to the number of cruise missiles while negotiation was under way and should reconsider its commitment to Trident.

We return to the issue because we have a duty, a duty we must not shrink, to articulate the conscience of the nation about a question of life or death, about the use of abuse of God's creation, he said.

Most British churches opposed cruise. "On defence grounds alone the Trident project makes less and less sense as it diverts resources from and puts at risk our conventional capabilities."

The Bishop of Birmingham, Dr Hugh Montefiore, said the synod should not go beyond the policy decided in its church and the bomb debate. "This synod approved the policy of nuclear deterrence and cruise missiles are intended to serve that end. Cruise weapons could fall within the resolution previously agreed by this synod."

Heseltine 'favoured'
Ponting prosecution

By Richard Norton-Taylor

Sir Ewen Broadbent, a senior Ministry of Defence official at the time of the initial investigation into the Ponting affair, confirmed yesterday that Mr Michael Heseltine, the Defence Secretary, had expressed the view that Mr Ponting should be charged under the Official Secrets Act.

Sir Ewen, who visited Mr Heseltine at his Oxfordshire home on August 13 last year, three days after Mr Ponting had confessed to sending documents about the Belgrano to the Labour MP, Mr Tam Dalyell — said: "Mr Heseltine

expressed the view that, if left to him, he would, I think, like to see action taken under the Official Secrets Act."

The view was Mr Heseltine's "chosen course of action". But Sir Ewen added, Mr Heseltine then said that the matter was up to the Government's law officers.

Sir Ewen said on the BBC Radio 4's World at One programme that earlier on August 13 he had visited the Director of Public Prosecutions, Sir Thomas Retherington. Sir Thomas told him that in view of Mr Ponting's seniority and of recent precedent — notably the Sarah Tisdall case — he wanted to talk to the law officers.

Sir Ewen said that he did not tell either the DPP or the Solicitor-General, Sir Patrick Mayhew, of Mr Heseltine's view. He confirmed, however, that the DPP did not get the Ministry of Defence police papers on the case, including Mr Ponting's confession, until August 16. He said he himself

took the decision to send the papers to the DPP.

"It was quite clear to me in the light of what was stated by him (Ponting) and in the light of his seniority and in the light of the subject matter that there was certainly a prima facie case for the DPP to be consulted," Sir Ewen said. He said that the choice between a criminal prosecution and disciplinary measures was "initially" with the law officers.

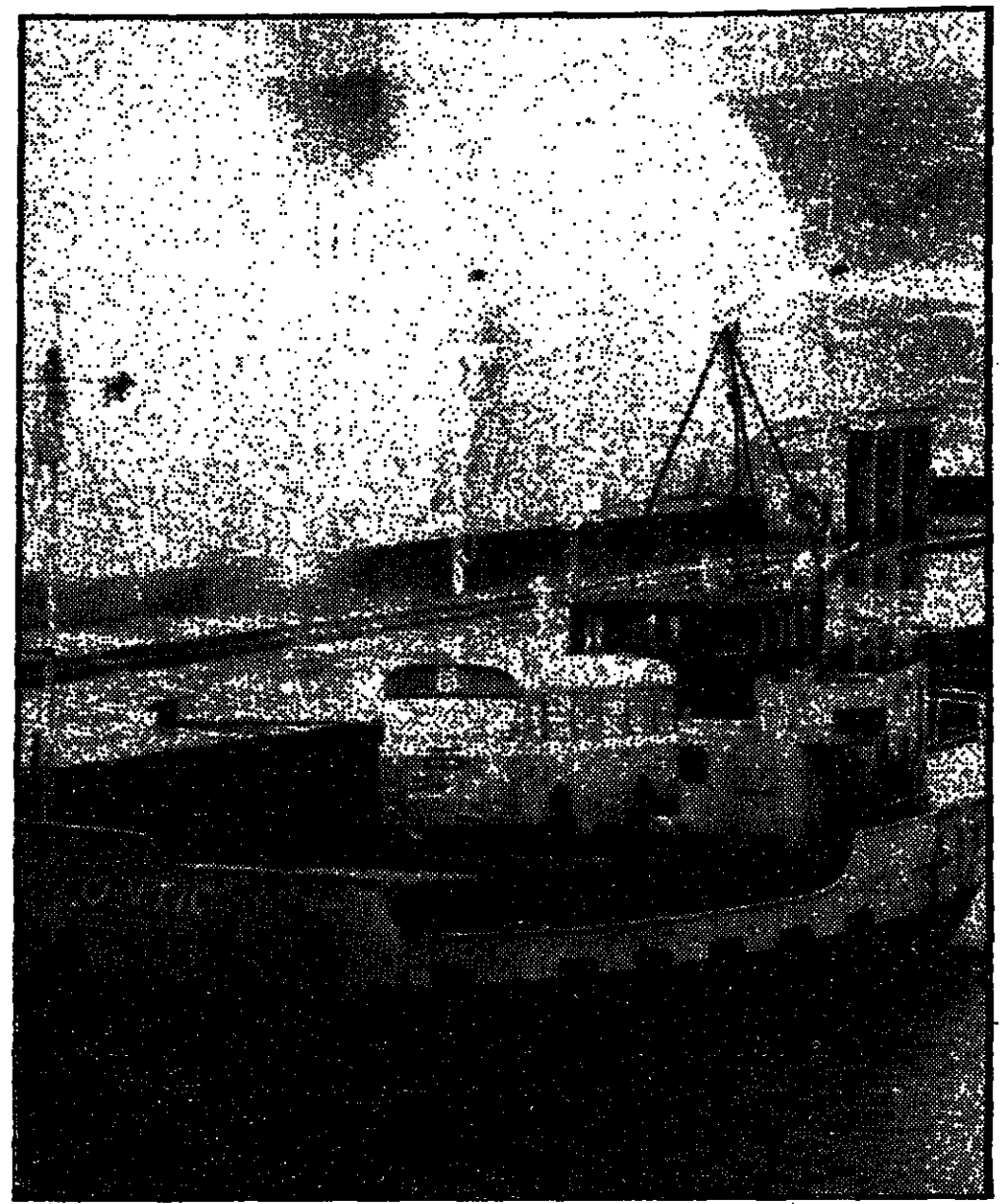
He said that he did not know whether Mr Heseltine contacted Mrs Thatcher, who was on holiday in Austria, on August 13. It was understood that John Stanley, Mr Heseltine's deputy, telephoned the Prime Minister that day.

The Ministry of Defence said yesterday that Mr Ponting had not received authorisation to publish his book. The Right to Know, due to be published in about two weeks — or to action. But Sir Ewen added, Mr Heseltine then said that the matter was up to the Government's law officers.

Whitehall's Management and Personnel Office, which is responsible for Civil Service discipline — is distancing itself from the affair.

The authors of the book, The Sinking of the Belgrano, Mr Arthur Gavshon and Mr Desmond Rice, said yesterday that they have been asked by Commander Ron Dowling of Scotland Yard's serious crimes squad, to hand over tapes of an interview with Lord Lewin, the Chief of Defence Staff during the Falklands conflict, which appeared in the Guardian on January 28.

They have refused to do so. In his interview Lord Lewin gave details of submarine operations, notably concerning a August 16. He said he himself



Heavy seas pound the harbour in Torquay, as storms in many parts of Britain left three people dead yesterday. Forecasters say the cold weather is to continue, page 2

Louis cannister 'found'

By David Hearst

Police were trying last night to contact the French Government to establish whether a cannister washed up in North Norfolk yesterday came from

the French nuclear cargo ship, Mont Louis, which sank in the Channel in August.

The orange-yellow cannister, which is the same size and shape as those containing 450 tons of radioactive uranium hexafluoride salvaged from the Mont Louis, was found by a passer-by at Trimmingham. Police said that the cannister was empty and had been in the water for some time.

A spokesman for Norfolk police said: "It has not ever carried radioactive material."

The cannister was found over 120 miles from where the Mont Louis sank, after colliding with the passenger ferry, the Olau Britannia. During the month-long salvage operation the wreck was battered by storms, during which two empty cannisters were swept from the deck.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION 17,162

BLUSHMAN ODDMENT
R P I O H E M O
EVIL LAUGH GRAND
A L K S S U E N A I
DOLEFUL GEMMANBAND
S S
EDITOR NURSERY
R Y K A
BEKUNIN INTACT
E U K N N E A
LESSERGOODS DRIP
NORMA VIEWPOINT
GULE SEAT
SAMPLER SEDUCER

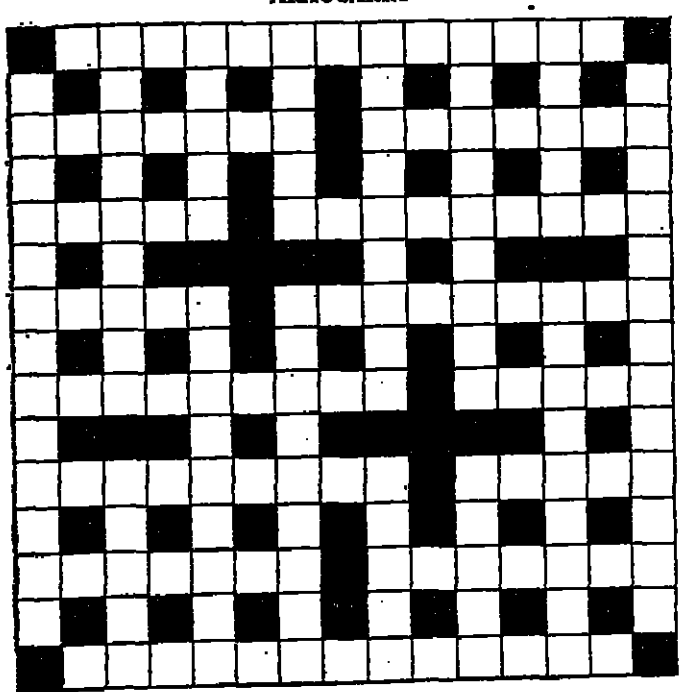
THE GUARDIAN PRIZE PUZZLE
17,162

A £20 cash prize will be awarded to the sender of the first correct solution opened, and three book tokens, each of £10, for the next three. Send your entry to Guardian Crossword No 17,162, The Guardian, 164 Deansgate, Manchester M60 2ER, to arrive not later than first post on Thursday next week. Solution and winners' names in The Guardian on Monday, February 25.

Name.....

Address.....

ARAUCARIA



ALPHABETICAL JIGSAW

- A. with good sense lived days that were unsettled (9).
B. golden tree is round and apian-petalled (3-6).
C. have square patterns, broche, squared asunder (7, 6).
D. Scottish fiend keeps pieces back to plunder (7).
E. Bess's earl in being, ten succeeding (5).
F. tool (what bites my head?) for cattle-blooded (5).
G. Kutch men raised a jug: one's after traitor (9).
H. speedy link with Kremlin — the equator? (3, 3).
I. Scottish guile's all right with Queen in rapture (13).
J. North Scots strat: flunkie and dossier show it (4, 2, 7).
K. sluths in varied lays lament for poet (7).
L. moves on spot, with German cash for foeman (5, 4).
M. M was birth: no Scots, half-dozen Roman (5).
N. himmet: cool led round Fo, ascending (8).
O. value very fit? in ring contending (5-8).
P. cite for Lawrence, status retrospective (5).
Q. snub, concerning T — (aunt's half defective) (9).
R. what will counterbalance? Here's a starter (6-3).
S. (down) he cuddles? Regular, not chapter (9).
T. clothes for bride: French sage near top of Thailand (9).
U. cup o' lukewarm tea shows South Sea island (5).
V. mine tone out of sight across the ocean (5).
W. when round East, a few (it's Scottish) (5).
X. (down), old basal, rouse round number (5).
Y. mouth too dry: kiss Cupid, then to mamma (9).
Z. eggheads, joined, lose only these, said Adlai (5).
Z. is Abutu's land which I raise madly (5).

Embryo majority

Continued from page one

"Now we need to know what is permissible in the treatment of patients."

It would be impossible to work under the Bill's "licensed motherhood" to seek ministerial permission every four months to treat a named patient, and no clinician would use IVF if it meant only fertilising one egg for transfer to the woman because the success rate was so low, he said.

"I saw a woman this week who had 11 consecutive miscarriages. On two occasions she nearly died. She was beside herself with despair. This law would make it a criminal offence to take one of her eggs, fertilise it, and grow it to see what the defect was."

The pioneer of IVF, Dr Robert Edwards, said at his private Bourn Hall clinic in Cambridge: "All our research is aimed at a clinical need. We will keep doing what we can."

It is up to the Medical Research Council, the Royal Society, and the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists to take up the fight."

But Professor Jack Scarisbrick, chairman of the anti-abortion organisation Life, was jubilant.

There are many ways of killing a bill, filibustering for example — but we will mount pressure on the Government to ensure this kind of underhand business does not take place."

The Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child last night said the vote was an "immense victory" for their campaign against experiments on human embryos. Mrs Phyllis Bowman, the national director, said the size of the vote was a clear indication to the Government that legislation should be passed without delay.

PM's terse reply to Kinnoch

By David McKie,
Parliamentary Correspondent

The flood of letters between the Prime Minister and the opposition leader, Mr Neil Kinnoch, dwindled to a trickle yesterday as Mrs Thatcher despatched her latest reply to Mr Kinnoch — her fifth in the series.

Mrs Thatcher abstained from making a point-by-point response to the 16 detailed questions to which Mr Kinnoch had requested a further reply.

The letter said: "You are trying to make a distinction between the decision of the law officers on August 17 and the period leading up to that decision. You accept my assurance that neither I nor other ministers were involved in the decision on August 17: you refuse to accept my assurance as regards the period leading up to that date."

"Ministers were not involved at any stage in the law officers' decision to prosecute

Mr Ponting and did not seek to influence their decision either directly or indirectly by any of the means implied in the 16 questions attached to your letter. If you want matters to be pursued, there is a full opportunity for debate on Monday."

Mr Kinnoch, who is in his South Wales constituency, said last night he would not be replying before the weekend.

The Liberal Social Democrat Alliance has tabled an amendment for Monday's debate which endorses the Government's claim that the sinking of the Belgrano was a necessary and legitimate action but also adopts the Labour charge that Ministers have betrayed their responsibility to Parliament by seeking to conceal and mislead.

The Government motion for the debate says: "This House recognises that the sinking of the General Belgrano was a necessary and legitimate action

in the Falklands campaign, and agrees that the protection of our armed forces must be the prime consideration in determining how far matters involving national security and the conduct of military operations can be disclosed."

Labour will ask the House to delete this motion and instead state its belief "that by seeking to conceal information, and to pervert distorted and misleading information to the House of Commons and its Foreign Affairs Committee on the subject of the sinking of the General Belgrano, ministers have betrayed their responsibility to Parliament."

The Liberal Social Democrat amendment, in the names of Mr David Steel, Dr Colwyn Owen, and their colleagues, states that the two "but"s, joining them with a "but", in a statement yesterday Dr Owen said he thought this formula would represent most people's views

THE WEATHER

Sunny but
very cold

AN anticyclone over Scotland will move little during the next 24 hours with very cold SE airstream covering most of the British Isles.

London, SE and East of England, Midlands, N and S Wales, Isle of Man, N Ireland: dry with sunny intervals. Wind SE, strong. Max 10 to 12°C (50 to 54°F).
E Anglia, E NW, East N and NE England, Lake District, Bedford, Edinburgh and London: dry with sunny intervals. Wind SE, strong. Max 10 to 12°C (50 to 54°F).
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